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•
**Wiltshire Horn
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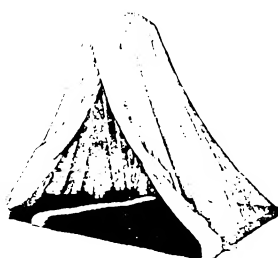


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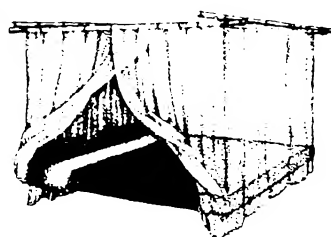
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Front cover: The Harwood family – Fiona, Chrissy, Tim and Robin (Annabelle was away at the time of the photo) – with some of their rare Wiltshire Horn sheep. Read about this fascinating woolless sheep on pages 9-11.

Back cover: Rainforest Seed Collective volunteers at work potting up trees. Turn to page 4 to learn more about their work and how you too can participate in rainforest regeneration.

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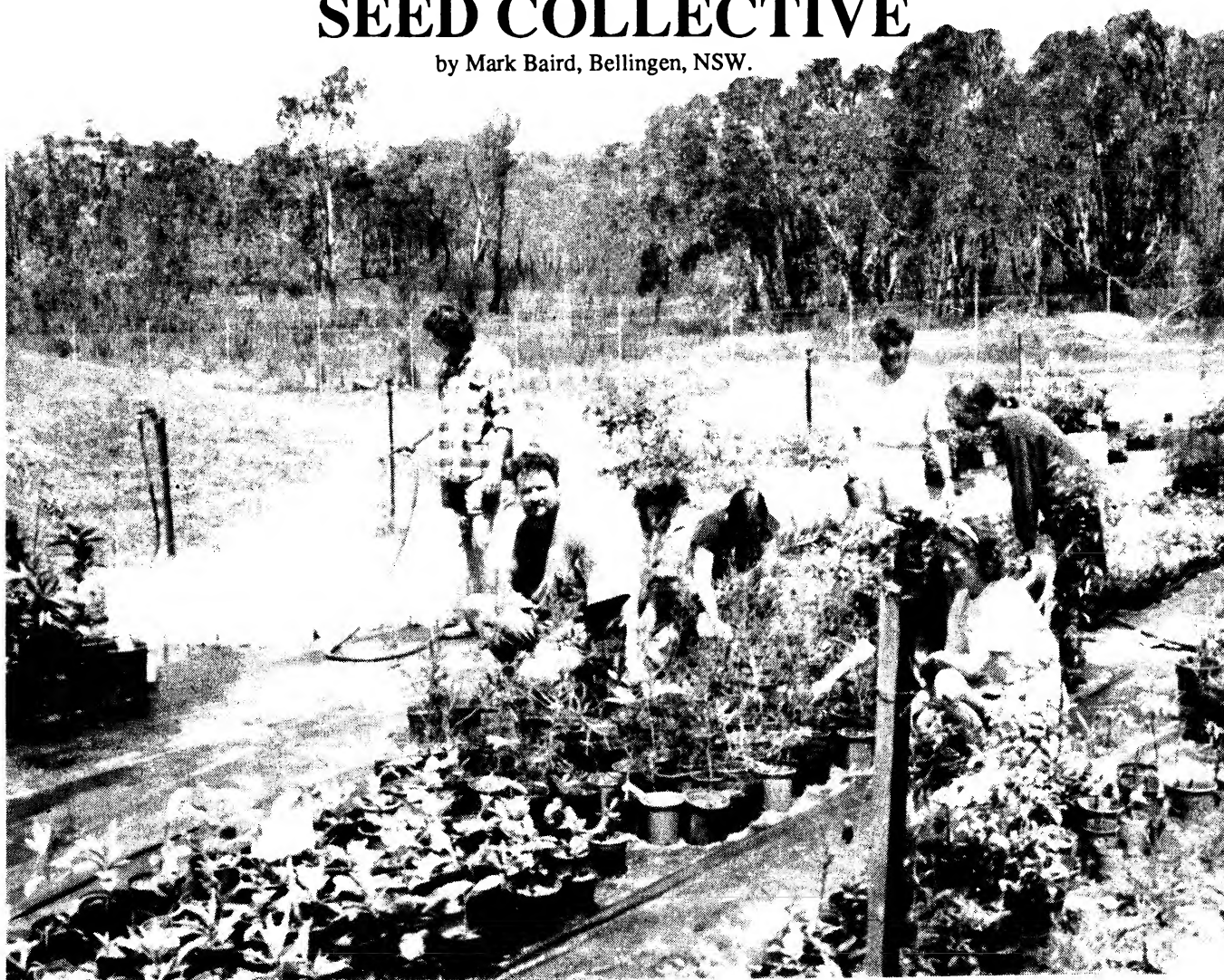
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There is no doubting the importance of conserving our forest heritage in all areas of Australia. While conservationists who blockade threatened areas of the forests gain the headlines, many others around the country are quietly collecting seed, propagating and planting, and teaching others to do the same in order to preserve and promulgate the genetic resources of our forests. Mark Baird of the Rainforest Seed Collective, a voluntary, community-based organisation centred in Bellingen, tells how anyone can become informed about and involved in this vital work.

THE RAINFOREST SEED COLLECTIVE

by Mark Baird, Bellingen, NSW.



The Rainforest Seed Collective is a nonprofit, voluntary organisation which specialises in rainforest seeds and trees. The RSC has set up three community nurseries which all propagate rainforest plants. We aim to promote awareness about issues of genetic integrity and biodiversity and to limit transport of seed and trees to within each bioregion. Our quarterly newsletter provides the necessary link.

NEWSLETTER

We produce a newsletter which networks

seed collectors, offers a resource for those wanting to purchase rainforest seed, and provides relevant articles for all who are interested in rainforest plant related topics.

The newsletter contains articles and a seed list. The first part deals with articles concerning rainforest plants and seeds. Topics covered are both scientific and generalist, for example: bush foods, creating a rainforest, regeneration practices, timber species, genetic integrity, seed collection and propagation secrets. The second part provides a descriptive list of seeds for sale and also contact numbers

and addresses of seed collectors. For reasons of genetic integrity we encourage subscribers to purchase seed from the collector nearest them.

SEEDS

A huge range of fresh rainforest seed is available for sale and there should be something to suit most needs. The selection includes trees and shrubs suitable for bush food, timber, bird and butterfly attracting, plant identification, regeneration planting, windbreaks, and for creating a garden rainforest.



Potted trees in the bush shadehouse being weeded by a volunteer.

Buying Seed

Once your subscription has been paid you are sent a newsletter and can then purchase seed from any one of the 15 collectors. Ring or write the person who is offering directly. There is no minimum order in most cases. The average cost per packet is \$5.

Selling Seed

To represent your bioregion, only offer seed from trees that occur naturally, as cultivated specimens will most likely be from other areas. Send in your list of seeds and they will be included in the next newsletter issue.

SEED PROCESSING METHODS

The presence of fallen fruit is a good indication that seed is ripe. However some trees may have dropped seedless fruits or fruit which is infested with grubs. If you notice birds feeding on the fruit it should be collected without delay. Sometimes it is worth making regular visits until you are certain the fruit is ripe.

Propagation of rainforest trees from seed is a most rewarding pastime and although some problems may be met, care and practice will generally ensure a good result. Stock purchased from collectors will be fresh and this will ensure a good germination. Most seeds are easy

A tray of healthy rainforest seedlings.



to grow and will germinate within four to six weeks.

To ensure a reasonable germination rate from your seeds, some special processing techniques may be necessary. Experimentation has shown that a combination of methods is usually required for difficult to germinate seed. Prior to putting your seed through any of the following processes, check the condition of them. If they appear shrivelled up, hard, rotten, very green or soft, it's a good idea to place the lot in a bucket of water, and in most cases seeds that float should not be sown. If you have to postpone sowing for a few days it's best to place your seeds in either a snap-lock plastic bag with a tablespoon of water or plunge them in some water to keep them in a reasonable

condition. For papery, dry seeds store in light-proof, air-tight containers.

Soaking

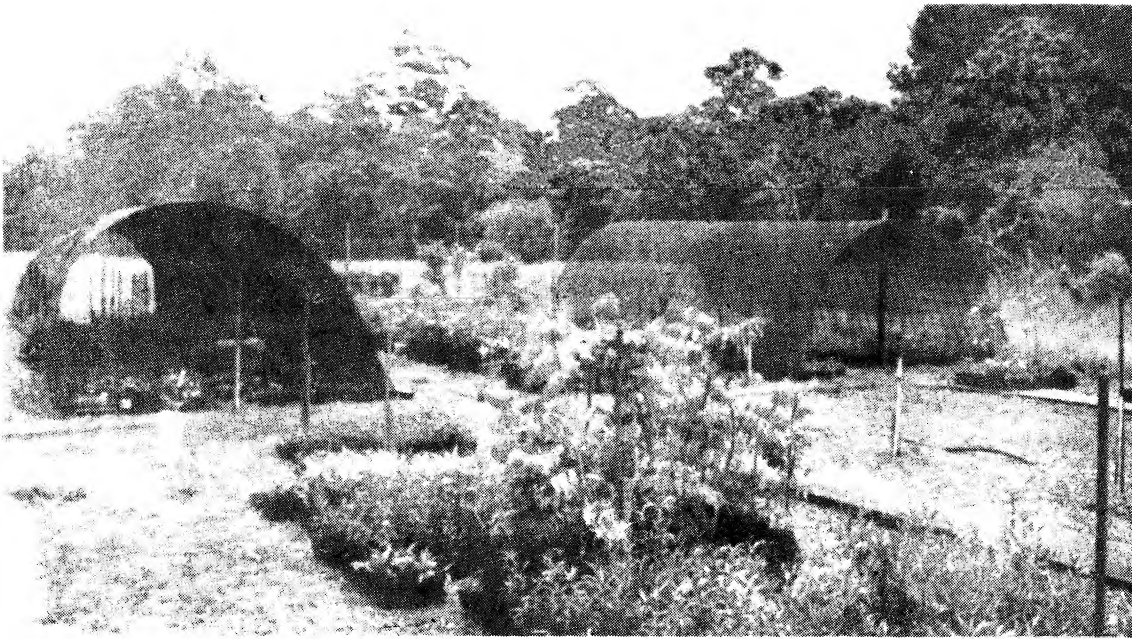
It is good practice to soak all seeds prior to sowing. This kills any hidden insects and rehydrates dry seeds. Soaking also assists removal of fruit and frequent changing of the water washes out any inhibitors.

Cleaning

Some species cannot germinate at all without being peeled. Fleshy fruits or capsule covered seeds are susceptible to seed eating insects. Removing the outer covering either by peeling with fingers or a knife, squashing or washing off is recommended.

Sun Ripening

Some species need to be picked unopened



The Rainforest Seed Collective nursery at Woolgoolga near Coffs Harbour.

such as *Toona australis* (red cedar) or *Flindersia australis* (teak), as these seeds are winged and can disperse over a wide area and can be time consuming to collect one by one. They can be left in the sun to open, usually taking two to four days.

Fermentation

Placing seeds in plastic bags assists in the breaking down of hard cases making seed removal easy and assisting in germination. Once the fruit or casing has rotted, seeds can be sown.

Gmelina leichhardtii (white beech) and *Elaeocarpus grandis* (blue quandong) are able to form rootlets in bags.

Pounding

Seeds that are covered by a hard coat can be pounded to facilitate germination. *Alphitonia excelsa* (red ash) seeds, for example, can be placed in a bucket and pounded with the back of an axe until the covering has been cracked.

Boiling

Seeds such as *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) need to be immersed in boiling water to soften the seed coat.

Sieving

Pressing fleshy seeds through various sized sieves can aid in fruit removal. As you press, flush the squashed fruit with water. This is helpful with small fruited seeds such as *Polyscias murrayi* (pencil cedar) and *Arcronychia oblongifolia* (white lilly pilly), which can be tedious if processed by hand.

Some Examples

Black Apple (*Planchonella australis*): Drupe, black, up to five centimetres in diameter with three to five seeds that are hard and glossy and two centimetres long.

Remove fruit from seeds via squashing through a sieve. Fruits that are still firm can be left to ripen in plastic bags. Seeds should be soaked for a few days to drown any caterpillars.

Blue Quandong (*Elaeocarpus grandis*):

A round blue drupe up to three centimetres in diameter. Outer part is fleshy with a hard stone containing up to five seeds. Place capsules in a moist snap-locking bag with coarse river sand and leave until rootlets appear. Alternatively, remove outer fruity layer by soaking and sieving, then crack each capsule using a vice and remove the seeds.

Creek Sandpaper Fig (*Ficus coronata*): Succulent purple black fruit. Mash fresh fruits with dry sand, then sow.

Foambark (*Jagera pseudorhus*): Capsule covered with itchy hairs, holds three black or brown seeds. Soaking the entire capsule tends to counter the irritating hairs and makes seed removal easier.

Note: The term 'drupe' refers to a fruit consisting of an outer skin, a pulpy and succulent layer and a hard and woody inner shell or stone which encloses (usually) a single seed.

For more information about the RSC, or details of newsletter subscription write to: Rainforest Seed Collective, Private Mail Bag, Bellingen 2454.

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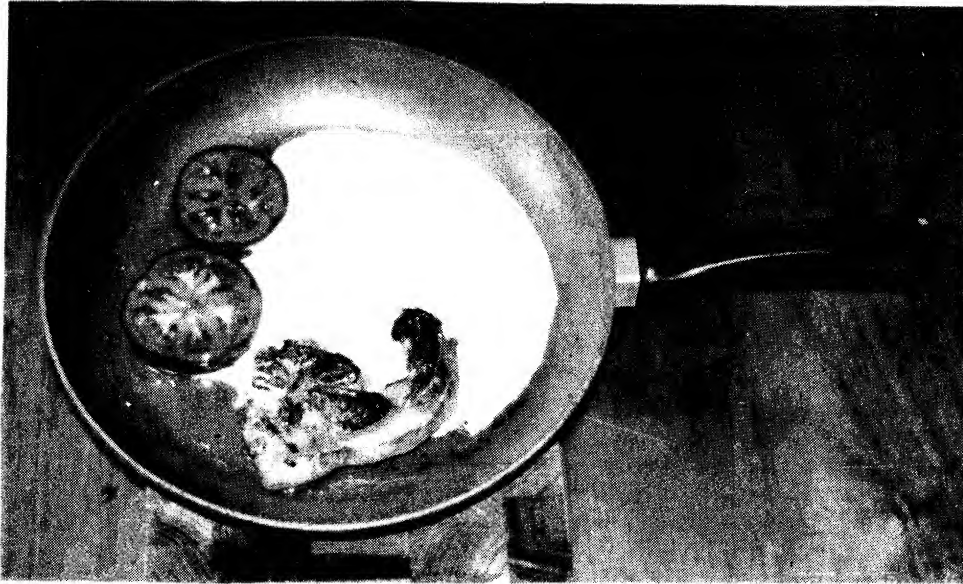
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A NONSTICK FRYPAN

by Chris Oliver, Miriam Vale, Qld.



A nonstick pan is a boon to any cook, but only if it really is nonstick.

Have you ever had an egg stick to the bottom of the frypan and sort of 'scrunch up' as you tried to get the egg slice under it? The yolk probably broke and then dripped out in long yellow strings as you put it on the plate.

Or perhaps your frypan neatly unwraps the batter from the fish? You know, the first side sticks and as you try to turn it the batter is set enough to kind of unroll, and you are left with some naked fish and burning batter!

Annoying isn't it? Help seems to be at hand in the form of these magic non-stick coated pans that are available at the chain stores. They come in a range of decorator colours, are not all that expensive and work really well. For a while that is.

The coating seems to start losing its magical properties when it has been overheated a time or two, and well meaning husbands and children sometimes scratch the finish with sharp metal objects. The metamorphosis from a shiny efficient cooking utensil to a wonky bottomed nightmare, can be surprisingly rapid in some households. I believe there is a better way.

Cast iron or cast aluminium is the answer. Cast iron frypans and skillets are available at disposal stores for around the same cost as a chainstore nonstick special, and remember, with normal care they will last for several lifetimes. The

ones with short cast handles can also be used as a baking dish in the oven.

When you get your new pan home (or maybe there is one out in the yard that is being used for chicken's water?) give it a good going over with a scourer and lots of hot water (no soap or detergent), rinse thoroughly and let it dry.

Now comes the special bit. Just put the pan on the stove with three or four tablespoons of good vegetable oil. Spread the oil about and up the sides of the pan with a twist of paper towel. Heat until really hot (not smoking though), remove from stove and pour oil into a cup or other receptacle placed handy for the purpose.

Let the pan cool for ten or fifteen minutes and then wipe out with a paper towel, just leaving a shiny coating of oil. Repeat this process three or four times, (using the same oil), and that's all there is to it.

Congratulations! You have just made a nonstick pan. However there is a catch. You can never wash it up! Mostly this won't be a problem. Nothing sticks so it is just a matter of pouring off the oil and wiping out with the ubiquitous paper towel. (Our pans hang on a wall near the stove.) The other problem for some people will be that you must use oil. Butter or margarine is not as effective.

When cooking steak or chops on high heat, we often need to give a scrape and

a quick scour with a coarse stainless steel scourer kept specially for the purpose. Always re-oil after scouring.

For some reason any form of soap or detergent is an absolute disaster and will cause food to stick. Should an enthusiastic helper dunk your precious pan in detergent water, all is not lost. Rinse with plenty of clean water and put on the stove until smoking hot. Allow to cool and then scour and repeat treatment as for new pan. Good cooking!

WATER WISE

Around one-third of all the water we use is used in the bathroom. Dual flush toilets, turning the tap off while brushing your teeth, and installing water saving shower roses or cutting shower time will all make a big difference to national water consumption.

On average 50 percent of all household water goes on the garden and the car, the footpaths and the driveway. Most of that water ends up out on the road in the stormwater drains. Simply by installing drip irrigation in your garden, you can save 40 percent of the water you're currently using now with conventional sprinklers.

A LIFE OF SHEER BLISS

The Stock Camp Cook, NT.

We always love to hear from The Stock Camp Cook. His letters transport us from our workday world and evoke the unique beauty and magic of the outback. We can sit back and imagine we are thousands of kilometres away, sitting around the campfire at night, beneath the endless starry sky, drinking billy tea and listening to the gentle lowing of the cattle. Of course, we also know it is a life of hard work, heat, dust and flies, but to The Stock Camp Cook it is sheer bliss. It sounds pretty good to us too, knowing we can share it all vicariously from the comfort of our own familiar surroundings.

Once again I have found myself taking a job as stock camp cook on a cattle station on the Barkly Tablelands of the Northern Territory, this time on Rockhampton Downs Station. The Barkly Tablelands are vast, open black soil, plains which stretch for miles and miles. In places they are treeless, just covered with grass bleached almost colourless by the sun. In the summer the tablelands are hot, dry, dusty and windy. In a few months time they will be cold, dry, dusty and windy.

Because of the treelessness of these tablelands the station has a big caravan fitted out as a mobile kitchen with gas stoves and fridges. There is a portable generator that goes with the camp. This kitchen is moved about from place to place when the stock work is being done. At the stockyards, most of which are provided with big sprinklers to lay the dust as well as cool the cattle, the water comes from bores and is always hard water in which to raise any soap lather.

At the moment we are having a plague of native rats which this country is well known for. There is a hawk called the letter-wing kite which has the letter 'M' on the underside of its wings. It preys on the rats and it hunts only at night; in the daytime it can be seen resting in the gum trees around the homestead.

I do so love my nights safe in my swag under the millions of stars, all of them shining so brilliantly, or lying bathed in full moonlight. I love my days spent making bread to be cooked in camp ovens, doing my washing by hand in flour drums. I love to see the mobs of cattle coming in to the yards, to hear the dingy's call at night or early in the mornings, and the very thought of spending days alone under a huge dome of endless blue skies filled with a silence so complete that it eats up every sound. These are my days and my nights of sheer bliss.

Far from the entertainments of civilisation there are many satisfying ways to fill the days. I often take my dog and off the two of us go on a long walk. We see many things: all the small and quite beautiful wildflowers; birds, of which there are so many, can be watched; the footprints in the dust tell stories of their own; the lizards leave interesting tracks as do the snakes; king browns are everywhere and spend their days hiding down the cracks in the black soil, so too do centipedes and scorpions, at night they move about but then so do broilgas and curlews which find them worthwhile eating. There is so much to learn and to see.

I do so love my nights safe in my swag under the millions of stars . . . my days spent making bread to be cooked in camp ovens . . . These are my days and my nights of sheer bliss.

I garden. There is plenty of manure, both horse and cattle, and I gather this and fill drums and polystyrene boxes with it and grow my parsley, mint, chives and basil – the herbs I most frequently use. I find that simply by placing old dry manure on top of the soil it acts as a mulch and also it absorbs quite a lot of water. I only water very early or late in the day, but in the heat of the day the mulch slowly releases moisture into the air and the leaves of plants such as silverbeet do not wilt. You can grow anything in this climate if you can keep the water up to things and mulch is the best way of doing that. However, up here, if you use newspapers or cardboard as mulch every white ant in the country will turn up in your garden bed and quickly eat whatever it is you are growing.

RECIPES

Here are some typical camp recipes.

Prune and Carrot Cake

Into a saucepan put the following:

- 1 pkt seedless prunes
- 2 large grated carrots
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup margarine or butter

GRASS 8 ROOTS

1 cup brown sugar

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups water

Bring to the boil. When cooled add:

2 eggs

2 cups SR flour

2 cups plain flour

Bake in a moderate oven for 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Alternatively, dip a square of unbleached calico into boiling water and sprinkle a patch in the middle of the calico with flour, about the size of a football, then gather up the calico and tie tightly above the cake mixture. Boil in water, which you keep topping up, for 3 hours, then serve with custard for a plum pudding.

Vanilla Slice

Line a square cake tin with Sao biscuits. Make a thick creamy custard, add extra powdered milk and vanilla. Pour onto Saos then cover with more Saos. When set pour pink icing over and cut into squares.

Plum Jam Sauce

(good for spare ribs)

Empty a tin of plum jam into a saucepan. Add a large chopped onion, four or five bay leaves, three tablespoons of soy sauce and a jam tin of water. Bring to the boil then simmer until the onion is clear. Strain into jars and use.

Scones

To make scones I use the following:

To each two cups of SR flour I add one tablespoon powdered full cream milk (for plain flour add one teaspoon baking powder), and one tablespoon margarine. I rub all this together, then with a knife I add enough lukewarm water until I have a dough which when kneaded will be dry enough not to stick to my hands. Then I bake in a hot (280°C) oven for 20 to 30 minutes and eat fresh from the oven.

To this mixture I add: grated cheese, finely chopped onions and/or bacon, sultanas and chopped dates – which I soak in the lukewarm water and then use the water as well.

THE WILTSHIRE HORN

by David Miller, Shepparton, Vic.

In 1970, the Harwood family, from Dookie in Northern Victoria, fell in love with an ancient sheep breed, and soon realised it was threatened with extinction in Australia. They quickly decided to try and rescue the Wiltshire Horn and, along the way, found it had some surprisingly modern applications in today's agriculture.

Robin Harwood first discovered Wiltshire Horn sheep when studying at the Melbourne College of Textiles. Although a rare English Downs breed, these unusual animals were kept by the Romans and probably originated in Crete many centuries ago. During his study, Robin became fascinated by the thought of a breed of sheep that did not grow a fleece, a remarkable oddity in Australia.

A RARE BREED

Further enquiries revealed that Wiltshire Horns had been imported into Western Australia in 1952, but farmers laughed at the idea of woolless sheep and the project went into decline. In his wisdom, Robin's father encouraged him to preserve the breed, simply because the genetic resource would be lost unless something was done. In 1969, after some negotiation, they bought the whole flock and transported it to Victoria. By then, numbers had been reduced to only twelve ewes, eight lambs and one ram. Robin still could not find a use for a woolless sheep, nevertheless he immediately started a breeding-up programme.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

It was only through having the Wiltshires on their own property that Robin and Annabelle realised the main features of



the breed suited two important markets in modern agriculture. The Wiltshire Horn has a large frame producing a leaner carcass, and its excellent breeding characteristics of virility, fertility, milk production and high lambing percentage make it prolific and hence attractive for commercial lamb production.

What attracted Robin's initial interest, the woolless nature of the breed, was the source of its failure in marketing. Someone had yet to find a use for a sheep that sheds its own wool. Farmers thought that a fleecelless sheep was worthless because wool was a valuable product, but Robin soon realised they had just not bothered to calculate the total cost of wool production, especially when an off-farm income was included in the budget. Robin and Annabelle slowly realised they had rescued the original easy-care breed from extinction. They found their Wiltshire Horns did not require all the costly and time-consuming management tasks which constitute normal sheep husbandry in Australia. To their surprise and delight they found their sheep did not require shearing, crutching, mulesing or dipping. The last has involved some dangerous chemicals, but, with the Wiltshire, these need never be released into the environment. There is no flystrike, because the wool is short, hairy and dry which eliminates the fly's breeding ground. This, of course, is equally satisfactory for the sheep and the shepherd.

So what does happen to the wool? Over three months each year, it merely falls off progressively and is lost in the grass. The Harwoods say the birds use much of it for nesting material. In the other nine months it grows slowly, but it never constitutes a proper fleece because it is short, coarse, dry and hairy. Robin and Annabel now select sheep for their ability to shed fleece, so buyers know they are not going to get any off-types which might need extra management.

SAVINGS

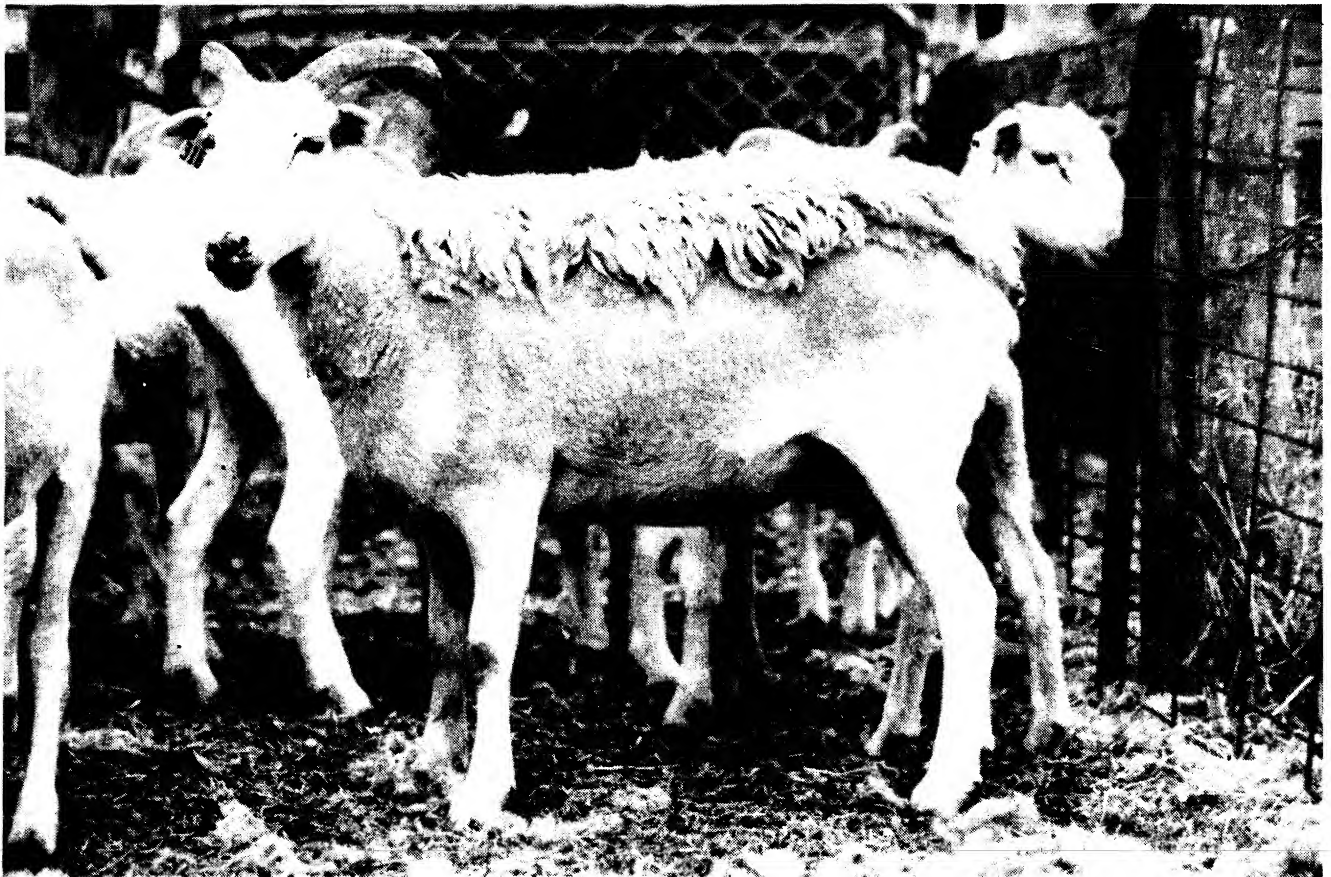
Another significant advantage, which farmers did not consider, is that with the Wiltshire Horn the producer does not need a shearing shed. This is usually a costly item to build or even repair when you buy a property. So your Wiltshire flock only needs a simple set of yards and can, effectively, be managed like cattle.

REBUILDING

Robin originally had British bred sheep himself and used these in a large grading-up programme to increase the number of purebreds. This was a slow process and, in the early years when the breed was little known, sales were difficult. In fact, there were some years when very few breeding animals were sold, but from the outset there was always interest in the unusual characteristics of the Wiltshire Horn. First the CSIRO wanted some in order to investigate the mechanism of wool shedding. The WA Department of Agriculture used the Wiltshire horn in an



The Wiltshire Horn ram is tall, long, lean and carries plenty of muscle. These traits originally evolved for survival but now they are important factors in improving the efficiency of the fat lamb industry.



No doubt all sheep shed their fleece originally to ensure they could escape their predators. This attribute, along with the breed's primitive hardiness, makes the Wiltshire Horn an attractive minimum care proposition for small properties.

The Harwood family will have their Wiltshire Horn sheep on display at the Seymour (Vic.) Alternative Farming Expo, 17 – 19 February, 1995.



Ewes are strong and vigorous, without compromising the important characteristics of fertility and milking ability.

experiment to produce an easy-care Merino, and to produce sheep for grazing in orchards, instead of goats and cattle which damaged the trees. Following this there were enquiries from Asian, island and South American countries for stock that could withstand high humidity, where the carcass was of major importance and wool was seen as a problem that limited production. So sheep were exported until the time the dollar was floated, after that, export costs became prohibitive.

TO MARKET TO MARKET

In the last 25 years, the Harwoods have built their flock to 500 breeding ewes and sell all the progeny before 15 months of age. Purebred rams and ewes sell for \$450 each, while grade stock are cheaper. There are two major markets for the Wiltshire Horn – the fat lamb industry and the small farm owner.

There is a strong and continuing demand from people who have bought a property because they like living in the country. They may still have city jobs, or need to work off the farm to make ends meet, and have found cattle hard on fences and sheep time consuming to manage. The Wiltshire Horn is ideal and offers the opportunity to sell pure stock to other people in similar circumstances. The easy-care characteristics of the sheep mean owners can be away from the

property without worrying that the sheep will be in need of management, especially in spring when flies are at their worst.

The Wiltshire Horn has also made its mark in the fat lamb industry where a leaner carcass is required. Wiltshires have been put up against the leading breeds and have been quite successful because their size, trimness and extra length is just what the industry required. For this reason, the Harwoods sell half their rams to fat lamb producers each year. They are now looking forward to trialling the sheep in a sheep dairy where easy care and milking ability is of paramount importance.

Robin and Annabel Harwood have had to persevere with their breeding programme, especially in the early years when their beloved Wiltshire Horns were the joke of the farming community. Their patience and ability to look creatively at a project have been rewarded with the preservation and intelligent employment of a rare and ancient breed. The characteristics of the Wiltshire Horn have, until today, been at odds with the main focus of the sheep industry, but changing patterns of eating, living and farming require different methods and livestock. The Harwoods have enjoyed the practical benefits of their chosen breed from the outset because they have both had permanent off-farm employment.



BREED PROFILE

WILTSHIRE HORN SHEEP

Origin: United Kingdom

Production:

- lambing percentage 150%
- lambs born easily
- lambs vigorous at birth
- ewes milk well
- large lean carcass
- no shearing or crutching
- no flystrike
- hard hooves

Special Characteristics:

- rare breed
- easy care
- woolless, no shearing shed required.

Uses:

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- sales of breeding stock to new studs
- excellent for the small farm

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MAKING MONEY FROM CRAFT

by Pamela Odijk, Mount Morgan, Qld.

When I look around street or market stalls, I am constantly amazed that in this modern age – an age of microwave ovens, tea bags, electric blankets and where wire coathangers threaten to take over the world – I find people still trying to sell tea cosies, egg covers for boiled eggs, 'modesty' covers for toilet rolls, doilies, hot water bottle covers and crocheted coat hangers. It seems a pity that those who have the skills and the time to produce beautifully crafted items, waste their time and effort making unsaleable items which nowadays few people use or want.

When I operated my market stall in a NSW seaside town, one young girl came to talk to me. She bemoaned the fact that nobody bought her crocheted doilies even though they were indeed beautifully worked and had cost quite an amount, both in terms of dollars and cents and time, to produce. I convinced her after a while, that instead of crocheting doilies, perhaps she should crochet dress collars, which were very fashionable at the time, and sell those on her weekend stall and through various retail outlets. She liked that idea, and it worked!

You should always be on the lookout

for new ideas for useful, and therefore more saleable, items, such as educational soft toys, useful gifts for the home or for giving. Put your skills to new uses and make things that are different.

ABOUT SELLING

The second mistake people make (the first being to make things that nobody wants), is to display their items badly. How many times have you seen street craft and market stalls or stalls at school fetes with everything neat and tidy, all folded like the day's ironing? Supervising these neat and tidy places are people with 'don't you dare mess this up' expressions on their faces. It is hardly an invitation to inspect and buy. Attractive display should be an invitation to look, which in turn is an invitation to buy.

Don't Clutter!

If your stall looks like a jumble sale, people will treat it as such, and expect to get something for nothing irrespective of how good or attractive the item is. It is better to specialise in a few things and have more of those – quality instead of quantity.

Keep it Simple

This is an extension of the above and applies mainly to colour impact. If items

on your stall are simple in style and in plain colours, the overall appearance is pleasing. Avoid making too many items in florals and displaying them together.

One of the most attractive stalls I have ever seen consisted of items made only in black and white. People were drawn to it immediately because of its visual impact. And they bought the items displayed.

To understand what makes a successful eye-catching display, pay particular attention to the displays mounted in shop windows and department stores.

Keep Things Clean

To avoid having crafted items becoming soiled, package them. Buy or make simple plastic or cellophane bags for example, or buy a roll of plastic protection of the kind dry cleaners use. Small items packed in plastic or cellophane lend themselves to inviting display; for example in plain cane washing baskets with notices pinned to the outside, or hanging from a simple display rack. Aprons pinned inside cellophane or plastic bags (or dry cleaners' plastic) and hung from wire coat hangers make an attractive and accessible display while at the same time protecting the garments. Most garments or larger items



Pamela displays some of her soft toys which are always popular with the younger customers.

(tablecloths, cushion covers, mats etc) can be displayed this way with two items back-to-back being displayed on the same hanger.

If the items are toys, try packaging most of them in cellophane or plastic, but have one example of each unpacked on the top of your stall for people to closely inspect. If they decide to buy, they will only look through the rest for colour choice. If people need to judge size, then you need to have one garment of each size unpacked for inspection. The rest can remain in closed packs in their respective baskets.

The more closely your stall resembles a shop display, the more likely people will be to treat it as a serious retail display too.

Don't Hover!

Customers will make up their own minds and your items will stand or fall by virtue of their utility and craftsmanship. A hovering stall owner is often interpreted by prospective customers as covert pressure to buy, and it makes them feel uneasy – so they move on.

On the other hand, don't ignore your customers altogether. A simple 'Good morning,' or 'Good afternoon,' and going on with some other activity until the customer wishes to ask you something, is quite sufficient. If you are lucky enough to be very busy, don't ignore customers who are waiting. Behave as you would like a shop assistant to behave toward you: say 'I'll be with you in a moment,' and smile. Chances are they then won't mind waiting and say so. If you ignore them, then chances are that they will put down the items they were intending to buy and walk away, forever. You have to work harder at customer relations when you run a craft stall than you would if you had a department store.

Be Aware of Your Own Image

You wouldn't buy goods from a retail shop where the shop assistants were untidy, ungroomed, grubby, smoking, eating or chatting to each other, so why should this be less important when selling from a stall? By operating a craft stall, you are in business just like other retail outlets, so your image should be the same. A good image is always good for business. This also applies to people operating a stall on behalf of others, those running charity or school fete stalls for example.

I have had customers confide to me, 'I will buy things from your stall be-



Always be on the lookout for new ideas and display them simply and attractively.

cause you're always neat, clean and tidy and the things on your stall are the same. I wouldn't buy anything from some of the others'. Enough said.

Children Are Good Customers Too

One lady I know makes colourful clowns' and dolls' clothes (or bears' clothes) which she sells every Sunday on her market stall. Adults love her work, and the children love her because she treats them well. I listened to her as one little girl, clutching her saved-up pocket money chose and bought a doll's dress.

'And what coloured hair has your doll got?' she asked her little customer, as she placed the garment in a bag for her.

'Red', the little customer replied, 'and her name's Suzanne – and I've got another doll called....'

I am willing to bet that she, like all the little customers, would be back to the stall time and time again. Children are important and should be treated that way.

ADVERTISING

There's nothing like drawing positive attention to yourself on market day or at

other times. I know several market people who place advertisements in their local paper about the availability of their commodities or products, and often prices, and giving their location as: 'Stall 11, Sunday Markets'. If you also have a studio, or take orders for items (garments, personalised/initialled items etc), you should regularly advertise.

On market day itself an attractive, eye catching display is one of the best ways to attract people to your stall. But there are other ways.

DEMONSTRATING

One young lady who used to sell hand-knitted socks made from hand-spun wool at a market stall on the north coast of NSW, not only had her socks attractively packaged and displayed, but while she sat minding the stall she also sat spinning at her wheel. People came to watch her at work and ask questions and this led to another extension of the craft, because she began to take bookings for private and class tuition in spinning and knitting.

So, perhaps if you weave, you could bring along a box loom, or some other

craft work in process to demonstrate, or simply for something to do when business has some slow times on market day. People love to watch craftspeople at work and it is also a sign to them of the genuineness of your products. It demonstrates that you do indeed make the items yourself.

If you have one spectacular display piece – bring it along. One eye catching quilt hung high (away from child's reach) is sure to attract attention. Even balloons attached to your stall add an air of festivity.

ABOUT PRICING

Pricing craft items can be tricky. If you intend to sell and make money by turn-over, then your pricing must be competitive with shop mass-produced items. And if your items, such as pillow cases, are better made, different in some way from the general run-of-the-mill shop items, and cost less, then you can be sure of your sales.

Make sure that you receive a fair price for your work. Simply add up the cost of all materials you have used to make your items, then compare the prices in the shops for similar products, and you have a good idea of how much you should charge. You will gain some idea of what your profit margin ought to be. Of course, the cheaper your inputs, the greater your profits, so shop around for your materials. For example, instead of buying small quantities of fabric or material from a drapery shop, ask them to quote you for whole rolls of material such as calico, towelling, or plain poplins and cottons (particularly black and white) at a discount. Try buying from wholesalers and keep your eye out for haberdashery sales: zip fasteners, buttons, cottons etc.

Mail order houses also offer bargains. If you live near a wool mill or textile factory, visit their factory shop. Tailors, dressmakers, even shirt factories and the like often have off-cuts, samples, or outdated (for them) patterned material they are willing to either sell cheaply or give away.

When you earn money from craft, you really cannot charge an hourly rate for labour and add that to your price. That is the difference between working for yourself and working for someone else. If you are in the craft business for yourself you have to work on turnover, sales and input costs, and profit. Of course you cannot be expected to work for nothing, and neither you will, the

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profit is all yours.

Remember, too that you will have to pay tax on this as it is income and must be declared on your income tax return. (But you can claim certain deductions associated with your business: cost of input materials, travel costs to and from the market etc.)

Bear in mind that the price you charge cannot be more than the market will bear, or more than most people would be willing to pay for the product. People always expect items to be cheaper at a market, simply because they realise that you do not have the overhead expenses (shop rent, staff etc) which stores have and this should be reflected in your price.

Another mistake some craftspeople make is to consider themselves artists and thereby consider that their work has some greater value over and above utility and general customer appeal. Commercial craft and art are completely different and operate in completely different markets. If you think you are more an artist than a basic crafts person, then perhaps you should sell through a gallery and not a market stall, but that is for you to decide.

Whether you wish to make a little extra money for yourself or for your favourite school or charity from your craft, or whether you intend to expand this to earn a substantial part of your income this way, you can always earn money from craft if you put good ideas and good marketing together. Good Luck!

LADY BIRDS

Count the spots on ladybirds to find out which ones are the useful predators. The larger, twenty-eight spotted ladybird is a leaf eater while the smaller ladybird with fourteen or less spots is the useful one.

GRASS 14 ROOTS

ELDER LEAF INSECTICIDE

Simmer 225g leaves in 1.2 litres of water for half an hour. Stir well, strain. Then dissolve 1 teaspoon of soap flakes in 600 ml warm water. Mix both solutions together and spray on plants.

CHAMOMILE SPRAY

Use chamomile spray for damping off fungus and powdery mildew. Add 1 cup of chamomile leaves to 3 cups of boiling water. Infuse, then strain. Allow to cool. Spray diluted with equal parts of water.

NASTURTIUM SPRAY

Use nasturtium spray for woolly aphids. Mix 1 cup of nasturtium leaves with 1 cup of water and simmer for 15 minutes. Cool. Dilute with equal parts of water.

PYRETHRUM SPRAY

Soak 50g powdered pyrethrum flowers in 75 ml methylated spirits. Dilute with 2 litres of water and spray on plants.

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MAKING THINGS SELL

by June Birkett, Coopernook, NSW.



For years I have had a market stall, sometimes only once or twice a year, sometimes more. Over the years I have learnt what sells and how to 'dress up' leftovers or throw-away bits and pieces and make them into saleable products others want.

When I have a stall I always make three or four light fruit cakes, these always sell and cover the cost of the stall. For the stall all you need is four folding card tables and two pieces of board cut to the size of your vehicle space. Put the folding tables each end of pieces of board to make a big table area.

I try to recycle as much as possible, even broken or chipped items can still be used. My husband's work boots or gumboots that are split or holed, I plant geraniums in and they grow beautifully. They sell at once if they are in flower.

Old jugs or vases which become chipped can still be sold. Buy some cheap silk flowers and a couple of soaks and make a decorative arrangement which can readily be sold as a gift item. Old jumpers can be unpulled and reknitted to children's jumpers, or knitted or crocheted into knee rugs or baby's cot blankets. Toddlers' caps or men's beanies

can be made beautifully from old wool. Unpulled wool can also be used to stuff children's knitted toys or soft balls made from material from old jeans or pants.

Ladies' old plain track tops and pants can be dyed very successfully, or large braid applied to decorate the tops or bottoms looks great. Hand-painted flowers, such as folk art painting, across the tops really dress up tired track suits and they are sold quickly.

Old soft toys can be dressed in a pair of pants or a jacket made of scrap fabric. Braid sewn around neck or waist, or the addition of an old brooch makes people have a second look at toys and adds buying appeal. Or, you could add a new cap or hat, just something bright to catch the eye. Yellow is a selling colour.

Try to pick the appropriate market for your products, toys for Christmas for example, or pretty crafted items for mother's day.

Old jewellery can be repaired for a low price and sold for good money. Single clip earrings can dress up toys, women's tops or belts.

Old lounge cushions can be dressed up by purchasing some velvet as cheaply as possible, or look for old velvet cur-

tains. Add cream lawn and lace and cushions are recycled. Add lace, decorate with embroidery or old brooches and the first to see will buy the recycled cushions.

Old lace or material will sell by itself if unpulled and laid out ready to sew, whereas it seldom sells if left as curtains. Pin-tucked, round, large cushions are a best seller if you are capable enough to do it; in fact any cushions sell well if they have been re-covered. They can also be used as a place to display jewellery, giving the jewellery a good background.

Old clothes can be unpicked and any large amounts of fabric can be sold in a piece, or toys can be fashioned from them. Golliwogs made from black or dark material and dressed in stripes with wool fashioned as hair sell well.

Also, as funny as it sounds, vegetables made into toys sell, if sold cheaply. Just pick a large potato, odd shaped at the head piece if possible, put four paddlepops sticks into the body like four legs and then put four cut pieces of potato on the end to form four feet. Now your horse is standing attach pieces of wool to a toothpick and push it into the tail end. Cut two diamond shaped holes in the head and

cut two pieces of carrot to put into the holes for eyes. Make a mane from wool, place 'horse' on an ice cream lid and place grass or moss around horse. They are fun to make and kids love them.

Carrots can have legs attached the same way as for the horse and eyes dug out. Put a coloured cardboard hat on top and now you have a funny man.

Old baskets can be lined with pretty material and decorated with ribbon bows and they are a good seller. Broken jewellery or odd earrings can be sewn to toys, baskets, hats or caps to dress them up. These all sell well.

What can possibly be done to odd cups and saucers? Well, how about this? Put a flower soak in the cup and arrange small dried daisies and leaves; they look very cute on a mantelpiece or cupboard. Otherwise cover the soak with a pretty material, also glue the material to the top of the saucer. Now you place pins into the pin cushion, which is the cup, now put a tape measure and a pair of small scissors on the saucer part and you have one useful cup and saucer to be sold.

What about empty cat and dog food tins? Paint and folk art, trim with lace around top and they make pen and pencil holders, pretty and useable.

Pumpkins, gourds and simply squash



Plants usually sell well at markets, especially when in flower.

lend themselves to folk art or painted funny faces. Give them a catchy name such as 'Country Cousins'. They are eye catching, funny, and sell well for home decorating.

I could just go on and on, the ideas are endless. Let your mind explode. Take a long hard look at what is around you, then look at your working materials on hand. All you need is material, lace, paint, wool. Think about what you would like to do with a particular object. Leave

the idea for a few days and then if it is still looking good go ahead with it. There are so many items around your home that can be transformed with a coat of paint, folk art, trim, or with just standing it upside down with legs on it to make someone else look and want it.

I will leave the rest to your happy marketing, but remember, make your market or garage sale interesting with unusual items, don't just put out tired old junk!

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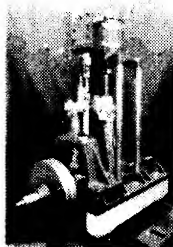
CHAMOMILE RINSE

Steep one cup chamomile flowers in three cups boiling water. Use the liquid as a final hair rinse. This will add golden lights to brown hair.

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For a natural hair setting gel that dries quickly and leaves your hair shiny, use aloe vera juice directly onto your hair.

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THE BARGAIN HOUSE

PART 1 RENOVATING

by Susan Hands,
Innisfail, Qld.



Front view of finished house, painted, verandah added – what a difference!



The original house from the front.

‘The ad says it’s within walking distance of town and the size of the block is 2024 square metres.’ ‘Which is?’ I looked at my husband. ‘Half an acre.’

‘Half an acre, within walking distance of town, with a house, and they only want 36 grand. There’s got to be something cockeyed somewhere.’

‘It’s probably falling to pieces,’ said my ever practical husband, ‘but shall we take a look?’

Under the circumstances (We were living in rental accommodation after only just having returned to north Queensland.) who could resist a look?

wooden stumps, to make two storeys.’

To me it looked exactly like a giant backyard dunny. A corrugated iron box, two storeys high and... bright red. Inside, the owner greeted us with what seemed like a hundred mosquito coils, all blazing. ‘The yard’s got a bit overgrown,’ he said, ‘haven’t been able to do much for the last ten years... getting too old.’

One look at the place was enough for me. I would have turned and run but Howard is a design draftsman by profession so, starting at the old wooden stumps, he carefully and thoroughly assessed the whole house.

The ‘bargain house’ was within walking distance of town and it was on half an acre of ground, where you could actually see the ground. But the house! To quote Howard, it was a ‘typical 1920 worker’s cottage that had been raised onto

‘The wooden stumps will have to go, they’ve been eaten out by white-ants.’ he said turning to me with a hopeful expression. ‘But as a structure, she’s essentially sound, no problems with the roof either. What do you think?’

I went for a second look at the yard, or at least the bits I could manage to see. The soil looked like a workable mixture of loam clay and there was half an acre.

We returned to our rented house to consider the whole proposition. I stood at my rented kitchen window and looked out on my rented lawn that could not be touched. My husband did some intensive calculations on our rented table.

Cosmetics, he said, we could discuss later, but structurally we would have to do the following:

- Replace 18 wooden posts with 18 steel columns at an approximate cost of \$1200 for the steel columns.
- Move the steps inside. External steps from bedrooms to toilet and bathroom are not practical in our climate where it rains more than half the year. The wooden treads would have to be replaced but that wasn’t essential for the time being. Approximate cost without replacing the treads, maybe \$50 for bolts etc.

- Completely enclose downstairs. Two-thirds was already enclosed. The remaining third would consist of a large door for light and cross-ventilation and galvanised iron sheeting to match existing structure. Approximate cost for the timber and iron \$100; for the door... well... we hoped not to exceed \$100.
- Build a garage. Eight steel columns, wooden rafters and galvanised iron roof, no sides, at an approximate cost of \$2000.
- Build a covered walkway to the garage. Cost unknown at this stage.
- Pay for some electrical work such as wiring in a hot water system etc. Cost – hard to say at this stage.

We bought the house. And as we still had three months on our rental lease we felt we had room to manoeuvre.

RENOVATING

Removing Wooden Stumps

We were lucky enough to be able to borrow a block and tackle from my brother-in-law who also came down from the Tablelands to give my husband a hand with, as he said, 'the heavy work'.

To remove and replace the stumps we followed the following procedure:

- Jack up the house immediately above stump.
- Cut wooden post in half.
- Remove top half of post.
- Pull out bottom half of post with block and tackle.
- Hang steel column from above.
- Fill around base with concrete.
- Remove jack.

This process worked so well that the whole of the 18 columns were finished in two weekends.

Renovating Windows

While the two men worked on the stumps my sister and myself removed all the old casement windows and cleaned them up by placing them in a bath of caustic soda. The caustic soda removed the old paint (all five layers) and the putty. We then reputtied the windows and repainted them after brushing them with vinegar to counteract the caustic soda.

Before replacing the windows we cleaned and repainted the sills and

rustproofed and repainted the metal hoods.

Shifting the Steps

Firstly, we considered placement alternatives, taking into account bedroom privacy and traffic flow, especially between dining room and kitchen. In the end we settled for running the steps from the front entrance downstairs, to the sleepout upstairs.

Secondly, my husband and brother-in-law cut out the required floor section with a chainsaw then bolted in the structural timbers to support the steps.

Thirdly, they unbolted the steps from outside, lowered them holus-bolus, carried them in through the opened side of the house, hoisted them and bolted them back into place... sounds easy doesn't it? But, believe me, without my teeth gritting, waving and guttural groans they would never have made it.

Securing the House

During the fourth week we rang a couple of house demolishers in Cairns and were lucky enough to obtain a beautiful set of double doors for downstairs. Three

metres high by 1.8 metres, ex-ANZ bank, strong and perfect, they cost us 70 dollars.

When we picked up the doors we also collected a couple of dozen sheets of second-hand galvanised iron.

The fanlight had to be removed from the doors before we could hang them. Then Howard set about sheeting the rest of downstairs and what used to be the upstairs back door while I scrubbed upstairs from top to bottom.

Removing Old Wood Stove

At this stage we were working and still living in our rented house. It was disappointing to find that the old wood stove was rusted inside and completely useless and even more devastating to find it was well and truly concreted into place.

What a stinking, dirty, frustrating task, smashing all that concrete with a sledge-hammer. And it doesn't do a single thing for your false teeth or vertebrae in your neck. It took the whole weekend to remove that stove and concrete.

The Floor, Downstairs

By this stage the house was more than livable; as a matter of fact my 18 year

old son and one of his mates were living in it. We had installed a stove – second-hand \$100, and a hot water system – new \$180. The hot water system was well used but I couldn't say the same for the stove.

With a month to go on our lease a windfall came our way in the form of a tax rebate.

There was a special on tiles in Cairns – I admit the colour was a rather bright pink, but we estimated we could tile the whole of downstairs including the bathroom and toilet for \$1100. We bought the tiles and I had my first lesson in mixing grout. From six in the morning to seven that night Howard and I and our twelve year old son didn't stop...

We Move In

We moved in over two weekends with the help of both sons and the occasional son's mate caught on the hop.

Next time I'll tell you how we continued working on the house while we lived in it, and how we created a garden from a neglected jungle.



The original house from the back showing the external steps.

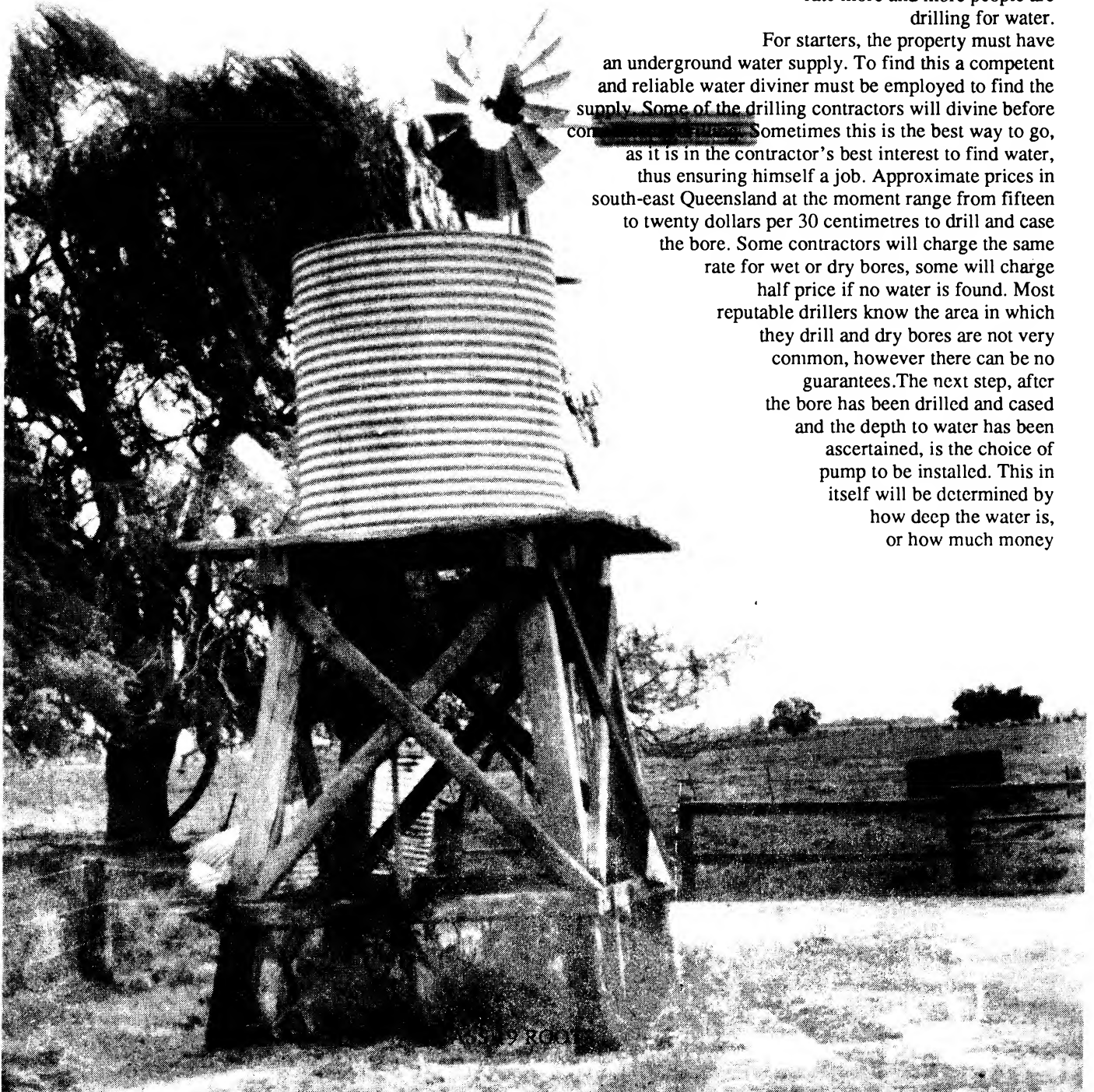
WATER BORES

by Tony Zammit, Villeneuve, Qld.

As the drought in eastern Australia is now into the fifth year and water from most catchment facilities (dams, reservoirs, rivers and tanks) continues to dry up at an alarming rate more and more people are drilling for water.

For starters, the property must have an underground water supply. To find this a competent and reliable water diviner must be employed to find the supply. Some of the drilling contractors will divine before com

Sometimes this is the best way to go, as it is in the contractor's best interest to find water, thus ensuring himself a job. Approximate prices in south-east Queensland at the moment range from fifteen to twenty dollars per 30 centimetres to drill and case the bore. Some contractors will charge the same rate for wet or dry bores, some will charge half price if no water is found. Most reputable drillers know the area in which they drill and dry bores are not very common, however there can be no guarantees. The next step, after the bore has been drilled and cased and the depth to water has been ascertained, is the choice of pump to be installed. This in itself will be determined by how deep the water is, or how much money



you have left after drilling expenses. Remembering that a bore 30 metres down will cost approximately \$2000. The last point to consider is the flow rate of the bore. It is useless to install a pump capable of pumping up to 9000 litres per hour if the bore only returns 230-450 litres per hour!

CHOICE OF PUMPS

There are basically three types of pump available: electric, petrol powered and wind powered (windmills).

All bores fall into two classifications: shallow well, or deep well.

Shallow Well Pumps

Shallow well pumps are for depths not exceeding 7.5 metres and for these bores the choice generally is electric or petrol powered.

The electric pump can be used as a manual operation or can be converted to an automatic system with the addition of a pressure tank, and an ADR valve (Automatic Demand Response valve). Both systems will offer dependability and long-life. Flow rates are as follows: Using a 1.1 kw motor with a total suction head of 1.5m the flow rate will be 86 lpm (litres per minute). Again, using the 1.1 kw motor with a suction head of 7.5 m the flow rate will be 42 lpm.

These figures will vary slightly with different areas as all figures quoted are at sea level and will diminish slightly as altitude rises. Petrol or diesel powered pumps offer similar figures.

With all bores (shallow or deep) the delivery must not exceed the suction or loss of prime will result. To regulate the flow a gate valve is fitted to the delivery line and monitored until the desired flow delivery without losing prime is achieved. For irrigation purposes some bores will not be capable of delivering enough volume successfully. To overcome this, water is pumped from the bore to either a tank or dam and then pumped using a high pressure pump (firefighter pump) to irrigation sprinklers.

Deep Well Pumps

These bores start at 7.5 metres and go down to over 60 metres. Water from these depths can be obtained using either deep well injectors or windmills.

Deep well injectors can be used with both electric or petrol pumps. The operating principles are easy to understand. First you have to have a top-mounted pump to which two long lengths of poly-pipe are fitted with an injector fitted at the end of the poly-pipe (see fig 1). Water can be pumped from enormous depths

using deep well injectors and if the bore is only capable of pumping small quantities of water gate valves are used to regulate the flow so prime is not lost.

Deep well systems can be also installed on horizontally offset situations. The pump is mounted away from the water source to gain access to power in electric pumps or where there is a possibility of flooding occurring. (More details of this form of installation will be covered in another article as this subject is fairly lengthy in itself.) Where power is not available at the water source a single stage (one impeller) engine driven pump can be used. For bores capable of producing 4500 litres per hour or more a two stage (two impellers) engine can be used to pump water up to a 100 metre head.

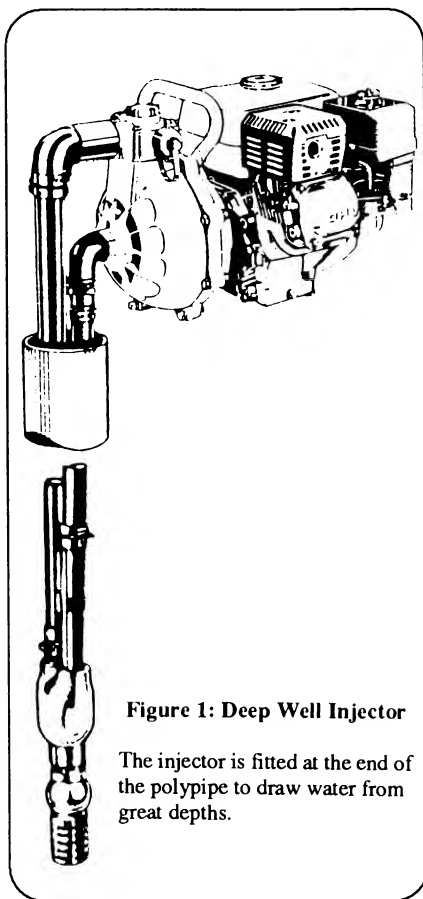


Figure 1: Deep Well Injector

The injector is fitted at the end of the poly-pipe to draw water from great depths.

INJECTORS

These are ingenious inventions to enable water from depths of 42 metres to be pumped to the surface. The principle of operation is as follows. Water is pumped down the larger pipe into the injector body and then through a venturi and up the smaller pipe to the surface. When the water passes through the lower part of the injector a vacuum is created and a vortex results, thus drawing water in

through the vents in the injector body and on through the venturi where pressure is increased and pumped to the delivery port of the pump.

WINDMILLS

These are probably the oldest form of pumps. Windmills do not produce pressure, they are strictly volume pumps and so long as the wind drives the wheel the mill will pump water indefinitely. The only way to stop them pumping is to tie or reef the wheel to the tower to stop the wheel from turning. The reasons for reefing a wheel are mainly that the water flow has dried up and so as not to damage the pump buckets the wheel is immobilised. If volume of water is required at a steady rate, the windmill is very often a popular form of pump. It uses no electricity or petrol and is a lot more environmentally friendly. Prices for windmills can vary from \$1200 second-hand to \$4000 new.

As I said before, windmills will pump water all day long so long as the wind is blowing. In most installations water is pumped into tanks or drains and channelled to where it is needed.

If you already own a property with an old windmill on it and it is either not working, or the wheel or tower are inoperable, you can still pump water. So long as the pump rods and buckets are in working order a jack pump can be fitted. The jack pump uses the same pumping principles as the mill, however, instead of a wheel turning the gearbox crankshaft assembly a small petrol or diesel motor geared down is used to operate the pump rods, thus pumping water from enormous depths to the surface.

The pumps covered in this article are only a small range or what is available. For further information you can contact me by either writing to me or phoning on 074-963-600. I would be happy to assist with any problems you may have. T Zammit, 27 Terragon Road, VILLENEUVE 4514.



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THE SAGA OF SILVERTREES

FROGS, LIZARDS AND OTHER FRIENDS

by Pam Cole, Tuncurry, NSW.

The brick pile where the birds fed, back in the days when we were still building, was nearly as tall as me. The safe distance from ground level no doubt attracted them, but also, unknown to us for some time, some tiny frogs and lizards had made it their home.

What a thrill it was to find these first signs of wildlife returning to what had been a typical developer's moonscape of bulldozed bare sand. One day, long before the pouring of the house slab, we were checking the marking pegs and were amazed to find a little brown frog. We put him in a clump of tussocky grass, out of harm's way. Later in the year, when rain developed, we heard croaking from that general direction. When we later shifted brick rubble from the side of the shed, two disgruntled brown frogs were disturbed.

Later still, with the house at roughly usable stage, the last pile of bricks was needed for a pathway. While dismantling the pile, we found that a tiny lizard, not to mention the ubiquitous redbacks, had been sharing this multistoried apartment block with a dozen or more frogs, little brown coloured chaps with delicate limbs and minute webbed fingers. They side-stepped and somersaulted out of our way as bricks were removed, and finally took off with long bounds ... some into the pot plant nursery behind the shed, others among the struggling impatiens and geraniums at the rear of the house. Tired and busy as we were, we felt unable to think of any way to help them, regretted their plight, and wished them well in a weary sort of way.

When next rain threatened, our fears were soothed. A chorus from all round the yard went up. So many different frog voices. It seemed most of them had survived. After a time we grew to recognise some by sound and location ... deep and loud, near the front verandah down-pipe, that was Rolls ... rumbling away near the back verandah, his pal Royce. These, and the lighter rattle of Aston and Martin out behind the machinery shed, can be easily detected above the shriller chorus of other frogs.

They let us know when rain is on the way, confirming the fact even more loudly during the downpour. Rolls does tend to become confused these days now that we have the luxury of a garden sprinkler and lets us know whenever it is turned on.

One summer evening, when we had progressed to the stage of a few flowers in the front garden, we were astounded and delighted by what I can only describe as a sprinkle of frogs. Tiny fingernail-sized frogs, scattered all over the roses. No, I don't mean that they were actually showered down from the sky, but it was just as though they'd been flung in handfuls to nestle like green jewels in the curves of the rose petals and on the garlic and parsley beneath. One or two clung on to the windowpane with gluey feet, seeming to goggle in at us. How grotesque and unnecessary they must have found our human dwelling place. Next day they were gone.

For most of our time living in the shed we were sharing our living quarters with a blue-tongue lizard. There had always been a mystery tunnel in a tangle of grass and prickly moses acacia which we passed every day while bucketing water to our trees. Maybe that's where Bluey had his home before the temptations of a softer way of life presented themselves! At any rate he took up residence under the caravan in the shed, no doubt attracted by the cats' feeding bowl one evening when the door was ajar. At times we saw him; now and then he and the cats had a very audible disputation of ownership, and always at night we heard him moving around on the shed floor beneath us as we settled to sleep in the caravan.

Bluey was not seen again after we moved in to the house, but this autumn we found a small young one in some brick rubble behind the passionfruit vine. Then one day this spring I was startled to see a reptilian head moving beyond a sunny log, and a large flat blue-tongue lizard moved into sunbaking position. Whether it was Bluey, or one of his/her offspring, who can say?

Tiny penny lizards flicker and dart on our sunny brick pathways and on the warm timber of the gazebo. Always a friendly and comforting sight. How nice that they are here. Often, while building, or carrying water to the baby trees, we saw lizard tracks on the white sand. It's good that they haven't been frightened away and can make a living in our garden. Another intriguing sight is the ant-lion pits we'd find. Having read of these as kids in our nature study lessons we know that unwary ants slip into these to be devoured by the ant-lion, but so far have not actually caught the lurking monster at work!

Big tracks across the sand, at times from one side of the block to the other, had us puzzled for some weeks. A very large lizard, a goanna, or simply our over-active imaginations plus the work of the wind on normal lizard or bird tracks? To everyone's delight it proved to be an echidna who has paid a few visits since: to our garden, a neighbour's, and the ant nests on our bottom acre. We all hope for future visits of this harmless friend.

We have had a few bandicoot holes and tunnels in the vegetable patch, the principal one being hidden under the big pumpkin vine for a long time, but the only bandicoot we've seen so far is a poor dead one which the cat horrified us with last week. Now we know what the holes in and out of the fowl pen were ... and we thought mice had been stealing the chook food!

Wallabies are often seen in the scrub between us and the sea. Long may they live securely there, and never venture out towards the road. Our place is now too settled for these, and for the koalas we hear in the thick bush on our other side. Let's hope they stay safely down near the creek. Who knows? Some magical day in the future when we've all done the right thing and our trees are tall and thick, and our ideas of 'progress' wonderfully altered, they and other creatures may decide to grace our lives by

returning to live among us.



"Tiny fingernail-size frogs, scattered all over the roses ... just as though they'd been flung in handfuls to nestle like green jewels in the curves of the rose petals and on the garlic and parsley beneath."

WESSEX SADDLEBACK PIGS

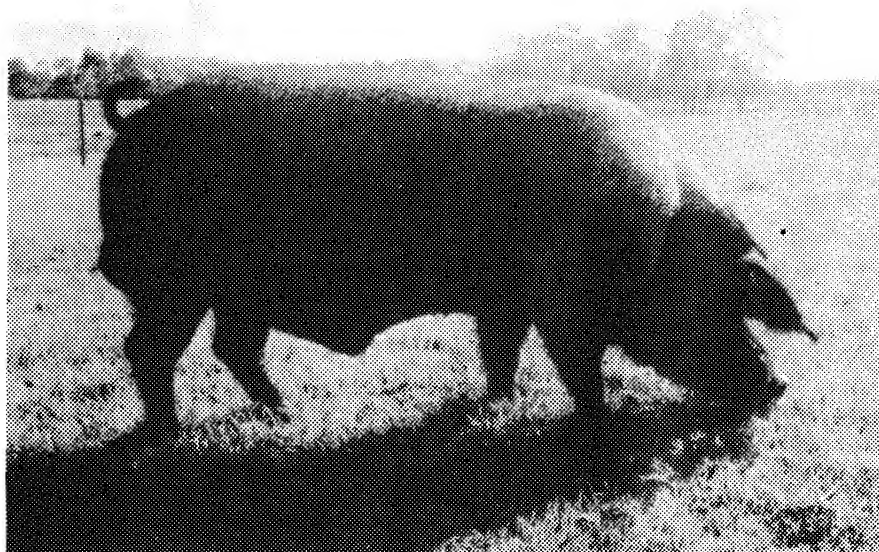
by Ernie Clare, Caboolture, Qld.

For personal reasons Ernie Clare, one of the initiators of the Australian Rare & Minority Breeds Association in Australia, is now wishing to sell his Wessex Saddleback pig stud. This could be a unique opportunity for a GR reader to acquire a stud of this interesting and versatile breed and continue Ernie's work in conserving and promulgating its genetics.

Characteristics of the Wessex Saddleback are as follows: Black with a white band over the shoulders and down each front leg. They are docile, easy to manage, good foragers, good mothers with ample milk supply to raise large litters with a minimum of cost. Average size litters are 12 to 14. Capable of farrowing in paddock conditions with little or no shelter and able to raise most of the litter without any problems.

The pork, ham and bacon from Saddleback pigs is very tasty, some people comment on how it is better than that raised in intensive units.

For more information on rare breeds of pigs see Ernie's article in GR 83. Ernie can be contacted at PO Box 546, Caboolture 4510.

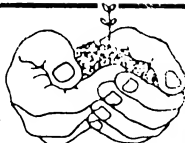


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CRAFTING SILK NECKLACES

by Jose Robinson, Wild Cattle Island, Qld.



Polystyrene balls or wooden beads are covered with painted silk and spaced by alternate glass beads.

Unusual and colourful gifts in the form of painted silk necklaces may be simply made at home with only a few materials and a little know-how. I've made dozens of these pieces of silk jewellery and sold them at markets and craft shows or used them as gifts for friends, and people still keep coming back for more. The materials require only a small outlay and you can have hours of fun experimenting with different designs and colours.

If you've never used this type of fabric paint before you're in for a surprise. You don't even need to have any knowledge of design because the paint does it all, before your very eyes.

MATERIALS

- Some lengths of white or cream silk. You can use fine cotton or synthetics, but pure silk gives the premium result.
- A lightweight softwood frame suitable to stick pins in. The dimensions of my frames are 90cm x 12cm (inside measurements). You may use an aluminium flyscreen frame with the rubber spline included. The rubber is used to stick the pins in.
- One packet of pins with coloured heads.

Drawing pins are not suitable.

- A selection of silk paints. I use 'Deka Silk' but there are several brands on the market. I like Deka because it is water-based and the heat fixing is simply done with an iron rather than the messy steam fixing required by earlier alcohol dyes. Paint is available at art suppliers.

- A quantity of polystyrene balls around 3 cm in diameter plus some glass beads approx 8mm.

I often use the wooden beads from broken beaded car seat covers. Although these beads are smaller than the polystyrene ones, they do a good job and they are free, as I get them from friends who have no use for broken car seat covers. The holes through these wooden beads are too small to push the silk through, and need to be put in a vice individually and have the holes drilled out a bit larger. If using these wooden beads, then every alternative bead is exposed without a silk covering. That alternative bead keeps the silk covered ones in place, so you don't need a glass bead.

- Brushes (Chinese brushes are excellent).
- A few small wide-mouth jars for mix-

ing colours if desired.

- Newspaper sheets to protect working surface of table.

METHOD

Cut strips of silk approximately 85cm long and 11cm wide. Sew a fine rolled hemmed edge all around. Pin a strip to the frame, keeping the silk as taut as possible. It needs to be kept off the working table surface.

Here is where the fun comes in. Deka Silk is a free-flowing paint and is easy to apply. Using a separate brush for each colour, blob onto the silk several different colours in any order. Now, while the paint is still wet, take a cotton ball or bud and dip it in clean water and apply to the colours, blending and merging together each colour. It is surprising what fantastic designs just happen. The colours become lighter the more water you use. New tones appear like magic when two colours intermix at the edges. Suddenly you become an artist.

When dry remove from frame and iron on reverse side using a cloth to protect your ironing board.

To form a necklace from the painted

silk strip, first mark the centre of the length with a pin. Now roll one polystyrene ball inside the silk at the centre and thread on one glass bead from each end. This keeps the silk tight around the poly ball. Keep inserting one ball from each side plus a securing glass bead from each end until you have 16 balls covered. You should have 17 glass beads threaded on. This leaves approximately 20 to 25 cm of silk at each end. This is used to tie the necklace together when you have it around your neck. Lengths can be adjusted to suit if you wish to have a short necklace or a longer hanging one.

Silk paint is drycleanable and washable up to 60 degrees Celcius. Even when the paint is diluted with water it is still highly fade resistant.

If you want a real watercolour technique, wet the silk first with a broad brush dipped in clean water before applying any colour. This of course makes a more delicate colour job.

If you wish to use silk paint for scarfs or other items and want to form specific designs or patterns, then you can buy a pot of outliner to trace around a predrawn design. The silk paint when carefully applied will then not merge over the outliner.

Salt Resist Technique

While fabric is still wet, drop a few

grains of pounded rock salt onto the surface and wait a few minutes for some interesting and exciting patterns to appear. The salt technique works only on very wet fabric, so you need to work quickly for the best effect. The salt actually absorbs some of the colour into itself, and so some delicate freeform patterns are superimposed onto the colours. When dry, shake excess salt off and iron on reverse side to fix colour.

Your friends will be on your doorstep with orders, once they've seen your first necklace.



SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY, STOP POLLUTION

The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) is currently running a public education programme to help people save energy and reduce pollution. The QCC *Save Energy At Home Kit* has hints on how to save energy, useful contact details and a project section to help people put a plan into action. The kit is a must for people who care about the environment and would like to save money on their energy bills.

For a copy of the *Save Energy At Home Kit* readers should write to: Queensland Conservation Council, PO Box 12046, Elizabeth Street PO, Brisbane 4002.

FARM HELPERS IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand now has a farm helper scheme allowing visitors to the country to experience life with rural families for free. The scheme, Farm Helpers in New Zealand, is run by the Grady family from their 16 hectare Belgian Blue cattle and Gotland Pelt stud in the central North Island. It involves a booklet of host farms of all sizes and types, where anyone can stay (from a few days to several weeks) in exchange for four hours help each day. Hosts provide beds, meals and access to other facilities, and visitors take a full part in family activities.

Visitors to the Gradys have helped with stock work, shearing, hay making, painting, fencing, firewood, weed control, gardening and tree planting. Some have assisted with the birth of calves, making this a rewarding experience. The Grady's have enjoyed meeting people from other countries, and postcards often continue to arrive after the visitors have continued their travels.

Anyone interested in visiting New Zealand and experiencing country life can join FHINZ by writing to: The Grady Family, Kumeroa Lodge, RD 1, Woodville, New Zealand 5473. We would also be interested to have hosts in other countries included in our booklet.

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EGGS DON'T RUN FAST

by Marja Fitzgerald, Upper Mongogarie, NSW.

Our chooks live in a predator-proof poultry palace (see GR 87) of which Steve and I are justly proud. So recently when egg numbers went down and stayed down, we blamed the weather. Late one afternoon I heard a chook announcing she'd laid an egg back at the poultry palace. A little later I strolled over to collect it. No egg. 'Funny how they've taken to lying lately,' I mused as I glanced upward. There I saw, ensconced comfortably on a corner rafter, the cause of our troubles. It was a one and a half metre long carpet snake. On its face was an expression of contentment as it looked calmly down at me. I hurried to the house, found a broomstick without broom, and told Steve who grabbed a tomato stake. Thus armed we returned to the chook pen, grim faced landlords about to evict an unwelcome tenant.

With my smooth, splinterless, tenant-friendly broomstick I poked the snake while Steve said, 'Raus! Raus!' commandingly. It means, 'Out! Out!' in German, but I didn't know that – I thought he'd named the snake Ralph. I continued poking, at the same time scolding Ralph for stealing eggs. (I could see three distinct egg-shaped bulges.) It's a strange thing, but I've noticed that scolding a wild animal makes it less fearful. They seem to reason that if you're scolding them, you aren't considering their delicate flavour. Anyway, Ralph wasn't afraid. He stuck his tongue out cheekily, tasting the air, but didn't hiss. After chasing him around the rafters awhile we got him to half-slide, half-fall to the floor. From here we tried to manoeuvre him out the door. It now became obvious that the open door had been his original entry point, because he knew it to be an exit and did his level best *not* to be put outside. We were behind him with our unpleasant sticks, the door was in front of him, but he wriggled and turned away from it each time we almost got him out.

He'd found himself a well serviced, luxury apartment with quality cuisine, a water supply and solar air conditioning. There was no way he intended to leave; he wasn't silly.

Finally I managed to get him on my stick long enough to deposit him outside. We slammed the door quickly (with us still inside), expecting him to slide away, disappointed but resigned, to find a cool spot. No way! A home such as this is not to be given up without protest. He lay there in the hot sun, facing the door from less than a metre away, and showed no inclination to move in any direction except back inside. We don't have the patience of a snake. After a few minutes we formulated a new plan. Stepping carefully outside we held our sticks to discourage snake re-entry and hurriedly bolted the door behind us. Now he couldn't get back in, but then neither could the chooks.

'What about if you fetched a hessian bag?' I suggested to Steve. He went off to get one. Meanwhile I contemplated Ralph. I had never caught and picked up a wild snake before, but that seemed the only way to do it and if it was Steve doing the catching I'd be terrified. Better, I thought, to do it now before he gets back and makes me nervous. (Not that I wasn't scared already; my heart, privy to my brain's intentions, was objecting loudly.) I didn't have the approved forked stick as seen in wildlife programmes on television. But then, Ralph wasn't venomous, though he could bite. I saw Steve descending the house steps with the bag and baling twine. Now or never. I placed the broomstick across Ralph's neck to hold him down, then picked him up with a firm hand behind the head and another along his body. For the first time Ralph became really nervous and coiled himself around my arm while voiding himself. To my relief I discovered that fresh snake waste doesn't smell. By this time Steve had arrived with the bag, which he held

open. I untangled Ralph from my arm, still holding firmly behind the head with my other hand, and dropped him all at once into the bag. We tied the string tightly round the top. That was the hardest bit over. Now to release him some place from where he won't be able to return.

I had become fond of Ralph in the process of his capture. He hadn't tried to bite and had not shown aggression. Presently we are in the grip of severe drought. Not much food for a snake in drought stricken bush. He might starve! So I made a phone call. 'Do you want a friendly carpet snake for your shed?' I asked a non-poultry-keeping friend. 'He's good at catching mice,' I assured her. After all, carpet snakes are supposed to be good at catching rodents; the fact that Ralph chose considerably slower eggs as prey didn't mean anything, did it? 'No,' she replied. 'But I think Justin wants one for his feed room. He's away for three weeks at the moment.' I know Justin. He likes bush creatures, won't let anyone shoot on his property. Probably he likes snakes too. So I put Ralph in the back of the Suzuki and drove to Justin's. His neighbour, who was feeding Justin's dog, let me in the feed room where I gently released Ralph into an open tin box of feed. He could crawl out if he wanted to, but he coiled up in one corner. There were open bags of feed in the shed, the sort of tucker irresistible to rodents. The shed itself was airy and temperate. Let's hope Ralph likes his new home eight kilometres up the valley and doesn't decide to return. Let's hope Justin likes Ralph.

* * * * *

COCKROACH REPELLANT

Either paint oil of peppermint or spearmint on the wood where cockroaches live to drive them away. Or mix together 1 tsp oil of eucalyptus, 100 ml oil of peppermint and 100 ml oil of rosemary. Bottle and use as a paint when necessary.

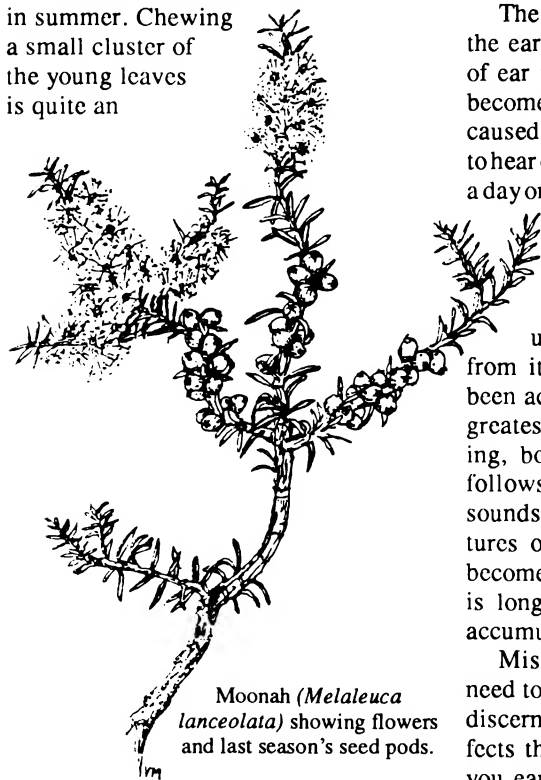
BUSH MEDICINES: TREES

by Vivienne Manouge, Angaston, SA.

Plant medicines are sometimes quite strong, so care is needed in using them, especially while you're still learning the basics. You get the right degree of caution if you follow the animals' example and use only the raw herb, limiting the dose, according to palatability, to no more than you feel like subjecting yourself to. Have a nibble, and if it tastes okay, a little more, and so on, until your system rejects it. That way there's not much danger of harming yourself. You really have to know what you're doing before you take or administer plant medicines that the system instinctively rejects.

All the information in these articles is given in good faith, and comes from my own research. It comes with no special authority, but is offered as my contribution to a legitimate folk wisdom. All the plants I describe grow within walking distance of my home in semi-arid Mallee scrub, limestone flats, and the banks of the River Murray.

Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) is a small, rough-barked tree with short, stiff, narrow, pointed leaves on dark twigs, and slender, cream bottlebrush flowers in summer. Chewing a small cluster of the young leaves is quite an



Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) showing flowers and last season's seed pods.

experience. The flavour is lively, complex and delicious. It resembles that of a Fisherman's Friend lozenge and has all the beneficial effects of a good cough medicine to go with it, working in the upper respiratory tract against congestion, inflammation and soreness, and relieving the irritation that provokes coughing. Chewing and sucking a small wad of the leaves releases an analgesic substance into the mouth, relieving the soreness of mouth ulcers, inflamed gums, and small tongue injuries, and it takes the edge off toothache.

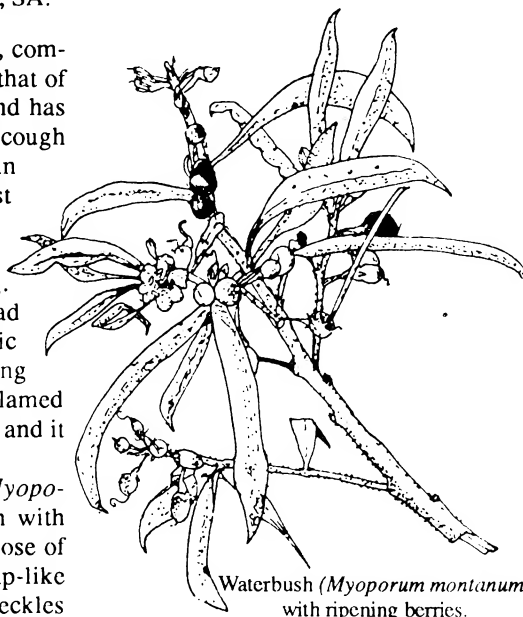
Native myrtle or waterbush (*Myoporum montanum*) is a large bush with waxy, bright green leaves like those of sandalwood. Its small white cup-like velvety flowers, with mauve speckles inside, are followed by eight millimetre purple-red berries which resemble tiny plums, each containing a largish seed embedded in sweet, slightly saline flesh which is permeated by the pungency of an aromatic oil concentrated just under the skin. Five or six of these berries is an effective dose. The seeds are not eaten.

The primary medicinal effect is on the ears. Long retained accumulations of ear wax melt and drain away. You become aware of tension around the ear caused by straining, however slightly, to hear ordinary sounds, and then, within a day or so, this tension vanishes, and an

extremely comfortable feeling of relaxation of muscles surrounding the ear replaces it.

I was not aware of this tension until I'd felt the contrasting relief from it after eating these berries. I'd been accustomed to it for so long! The greatest benefit is the enhanced hearing, both distance and close-up, that follows. Music, speech, and natural sounds are suddenly clearer and the textures of tones and qualities of sound become delightfully distinct. The effect is long lasting – until more ear wax accumulates.

Mistletoes are strong medicines that need to be used with care. They carry a discernable energetic charge, which affects their unique biochemistry. When you earth them, by letting them touch



Waterbush (*Myoporum montanum*) with ripening berries.

the ground, they lose their charge and along with it their medicinal virtue.

My favourite is the harlequin mistletoe (*Lysiana exocarpi*). Its leaves resemble those of its host, the sandalwood tree, but they are fleshier and a little blunter. Red and green petals are joined into a tube for three-quarters of their length, the green tips changing to yellowy-orange as the flowers open. Harmful to humans, the yellow, sticky-fleshed berries are strictly for the birds.

Only the young, still-tender leaves are used medicinally. Two or three, chewed thoroughly and swallowed, is the dose. Don't earth them. Mistletoe is a powerfully cleansing herb, and works holistically. A few minutes after taking it, mild sweating occurs. It isn't unpleasant, lasts only a few minutes, and deep cleanses the skin through the pores. A little later, residues of nasal and bronchial catarrh break down. Tear ducts are purged, too, and this may be accompanied by a freeing of emotion. You may experience sentimental feelings, and even shed tears. (Garlic has this effect, too, if you're watching for it.)

An hour or so later you begin to feel the process in your abdomen. The sensations are hard to describe, but they are not unpleasant. If you pay attention to them, they are very instructive. It is as if you can feel the whole digestive tract

being gently purged from within, by the same diaphoretic process that cleansed your skin. There is no violence in the purging, but the whole system is gently cleansed through the normal processes of elimination which the herb stimulates only slightly.

If your body is badly polluted with the natural and artificial toxins that no one can avoid these days, you may feel some mild, short-lived nausea, but this is unusual, and shouldn't happen at all if the dose is small. Even so, the benefits of this cleansing make it well worth it. It clears the mind, relieves the senses of impurities that impair their functioning, and allows your whole system to work for your health and wellbeing without impediment. As an annual tonic, it's as good as a holiday.

Mistletoe helps to keep young animals healthy, too. Free ranging animals eat it eagerly, and suffer no ill effects. Tethered animals benefit from occasional handfuls, especially when they're being fed on hay that may have been sprayed, or on an over-rich diet. Smelly dogs benefit from a single leaf chopped fine and fed with their meal. It makes animals alert, radiant and joyous, and has the same effect on people – but then, that's just an effect of good health, isn't it?

The young leaves of the river redgum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) can be chewed to heal gum disorders and to correct bad breath, as can the leaves of most eucalypts. The seeds, eaten a pinch at a time help to ensure the regularity of the specifically female functions of human beings, assisting menarche, menstruation, pregnancy, post-parturitive

health and lactation, and menopause. It also benefits the psychological aspects of female functions, including mother-child bonding, weaning, and letting go. This I learnt from an Arunta lady, and I include it here because it seems important. I can vouch for its beneficial effect on erratic and painful periods – a single dose (seed from about five gumnuts) has had a long-lasting corrective effect.

Collect the gumnuts when they are ripe but not yet open, and leave them in a jar in the hot sun, without a lid, until they open and spill their seeds. They're pleasantly nut flavoured – not at all pungent like the leaves.

There's a treasure trove of undiscovered and lost medicines out there in the scrub. It may be up to we honest, scrupulous amateurs to get out there and find them.

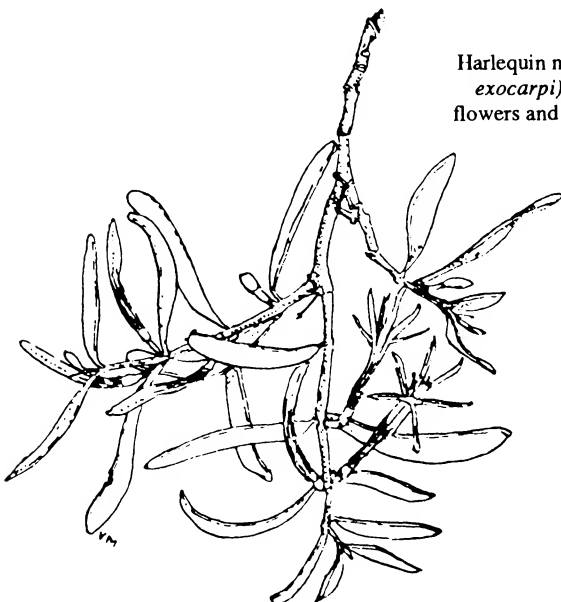
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### INSECT REPELLANT HERBS FOR THE PANTRY

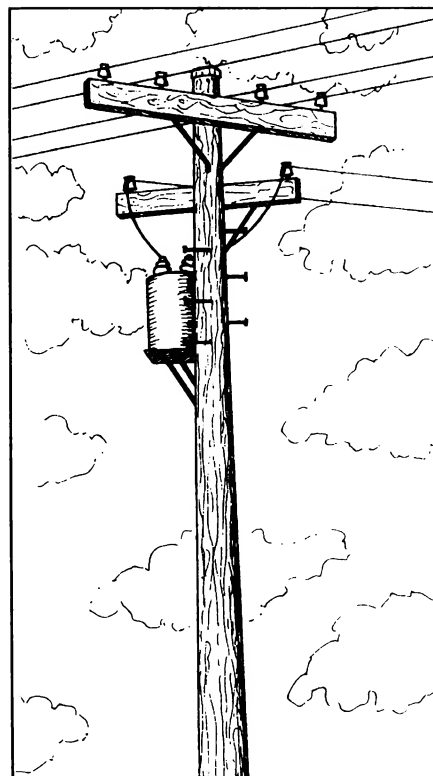
Hang bunches of the following herbs in the pantry to repel insects. Crush them occasionally when dry. Lavender, bay leaves, santolina and mugwort for moths. Lads love and fennel for insects generally. French marigolds for cockroaches. Tansy and basil for flies. Mint for mice. Rosemary can be used as an air freshener.

### NATURAL SPRAYS

Mix 1kg white sugar, 20 litres of water, 2½ litres sea water and some molasses. Spray fruit trees each week from bud swell, for seven weeks. Will deter aphids. Put long cayenne peppers in a blender with garlic, onions and an equal quantity of water. Strain and spray on cabbages to deter cabbage moths.



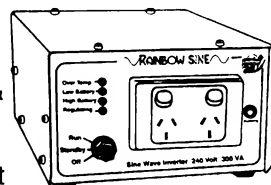
Harlequin mistletoe (*Lysiana exocarpi*) showing buds, flowers and immature berries.



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# HOME WORKSHOP BOOKS AND PLANS

We have designed these projects especially for the home workshop enthusiast. They are easy to build using ordinary tools found in the average home workshop. (Welding and lathe work are not needed on any of these projects.)

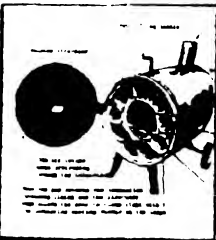
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**FREE TECHNICAL ADVICE** — The projects are detailed and easy to make, but if a difficulty arises either in making or using them, we are only a letter or phone call away for free technical advice.

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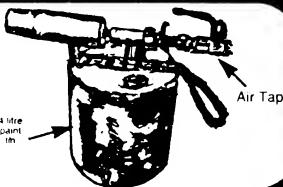
This unit produces 10 litres of high grade charcoal per hour from waste wood. The wood is baked in "coaling tubes" which expels gas and tar etc from the wood leaving pure charcoal. The process is started with a handful of sticks, then the unit is totally self fueling using the expelled gas and tar. (This principle was used during the 17th and 18th century in the production of charcoal for the glass furnaces and iron foundries). This process produces a very pure high grade charcoal with the maximum possible carbon content. It is ideal for barbecues, water filters, melting aluminium, forge work, (particularly impact welding where a clean hot fire is required), and many other uses around the home and workshop.

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This is a powerful, fast heating torch. Compressed air vaporises the diesel giving an intense fierce heat. The flame is fully adjustable from a gentle heat for soldering up to a searing blasting flame a metre long.

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## BUILD A MELTING FURNACE

The melting furnace is possibly the most spectacular project of all. It is easy to build using refractory cement. (Used the same as ordinary cement.) Exact grades are specified together with the suppliers address and phone numbers, for delivery anywhere in Australia. This furnace melts all normal casting metals, eg aluminium, brass, cast iron stainless steel etc, and reaches a brilliant, dazzling shimmering white heat in the melting pot. Despite these high temperatures i.e. 1,550°C in the melting pot, the furnace is cool on the outside and quiet, smokeless and safe for backyard use. The main outer casing is a 12 gallon drum, and the air blast is supplied by an old vacuum cleaner. Included is an easy method of casting aluminium using plaster of paris moulds.

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## HOW TO PATENT YOUR INVENTION

You do not need to actually build your invention. This manual shows you how to draft out and lodge a "Provisional specification" for \$60.00. This gives you 12 months of patent protection in which time you can sell your idea to a manufacturer or promotional agency for outright cash or royalties. The only work you need do is fill in the forms - about 1 hours work, on average and pay the patents office a \$60.00 lodgement fee. We explain all about patents, how to fill out the forms, and show completed examples to make it easy for you.

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## Portable Stove

This is an unusual design, very easy to build and capable of all types of cooking, roasting and barbecuing. Lightweight and works in pouring rain. Uses all types of fuel, eg. wood, newspaper, coal, etc.

PS51 \$6.00

## Blacksmith Forge

This is a brilliant design, being easy to make, low in cost and exceptionally efficient. It will heat heavy pieces of steel to a soft plastic state in a few minutes. Plans included for making old style bellows, and procedures to harden, temper and anneal steel.

F52-\$9.00

## Case Harden Steel

Make tools, chisels, etc, from ordinary steel, then case-harden to a hard tool steel finish. Harden shafts, tractor parts etc. Methods formulas and techniques for use in the home workshop. The mixture is absorbed up to 1/8" into steel by a heating technique. No special skills needed. Chemicals are cheap and easily obtained.

CH53-\$7.00

## Water Divining

Details the proper methods of making and using divining rods to find underground streams and reservoirs. You will be able to accurately assess the depth, rate of flow, amount and purity of the underground water.

D38-\$6.00

## MANUAL OF 210 FORMULAS FOR HOME, WORKSHOP AND FARM

With the information contained in this manual you will be able to make your own products to use in the home, workshop or on the farm. All chemicals are readily available, with the names and addresses of Australian suppliers included. You will learn how to make paint of all types, i.e. rustproofing paint, fireproof paint, luminous paint, marine paint, latex paint, putty, household cleaners, ant repellents, fly killers, soap, cockroach spray disinfectants etc. Formulas are also included for making imitation marble plastic, imitation gold, gunpowder, rocket fuel, etc. All formulas are relatively simple, do not require any special equipment and can all be made at home.

F16-\$6.00

## How To Build A Portable High Voltage Power Plant And Welding Unit Using A Second-hand Car Or Truck Alternator

Research and Design by Jim Allowyn

This special research manual shows how to convert old car alternators into a high voltage power plant and welding unit. This unit will run 240V lights, power tools, heating tools, universal brush type electric motors (will not operate induction motors).

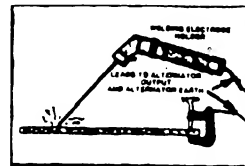
You will be able to fast charge batteries, arc weld, fusion weld with carbon arc rods, solder, braze, cut steel and heat steel to near melting point for shaping and bending.

Old 35 amp Bosch and Lucas alternators work very well. The modifications are easily done by anyone with ordinary tools. All the required parts are available from auto electronics or auto accessory shops and the total cost of parts is \$12.00 to \$15.00.

As a guideline to performance one 35 amp alternator will run 240v lights, drills, spot weld, heat

steel with twin carbon arc rods and do light welding. Two 35 amp alternators wired in parallel give an output of 70 amps which is adequate for most applications.

**NOTE:** You do not need a welder - this unique design enables welding leads to be connected directly to the output terminal of the alternator. The amps/voltage ratio is easily varied and controlled, enabling a low voltage, high amperage weld



ing current output from a direct connection on to the alternator.

In addition to using your existing car alternator and pulley you will learn about various drive line options including a high speed ground level wind chule power turbine which you can build yourself and a water wheel with enough power and torque to twist and break a 25mm solid steel drive shaft. Included is a simple method to convert old car generators into 2-speed 12v electric motors and a special section on formulas and chemicals which you can use and make yourself to rejuvenate old batteries.

P37-\$9.00

## How to Make Alcohol Motor Fuel

This manual shows an easy method of making alcohol fuel (methanol) by fermenting plant and vegetable waste. Methanol can be added to petrol as a fuel extender, or used straight with a motor carburettor adjustment. Methanol is water soluble which means it can be mixed with water, and in fact will absorb water from petrol tanks. Methanol, water and petrol will all mix and dissolve into smooth motor fuel which is efficient and economical. Production is slow and not suitable for commercial ventures. However, it is a fascinating and rewarding project.

P23-\$6.00

## AIR COMPRESSOR PLANS

Build your own compressor using the piston assembly of an old lawn mower and used car parts

This detailed manual shows exactly how to set up the compressor pump, air tanks and regulator for high pressure, high quality, automotive spray painting, spray painting around the home, high-pressure engine cleaning, sand blasting, operating air tools, nailing guns, air hammers, etc and with these unique design plans it can be built by anyone using ordinary tools, an electric drill and a few hours to spare.

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# SAFE HORSE MANAGEMENT

by Robin Jean, Braidwood, NSW.



Correct clothing includes long pants, gloves, helmet and boots. Remember to use sunscreen on exposed skin whenever you ride.

It's no good owning a horse and learning to ride if you don't do it safely. This is particularly important when children are involved. Not only do they have to learn that the horse's wellbeing is their responsibility but, being young and inexperienced, they are also less able to judge their own abilities. Horse handling and management doesn't just include your actions when you are riding. It also includes your behaviour in the stable, in the paddock and when leading the horse.

## BEHAVIOUR

Don't be loud or abrupt around horses. They don't like loud noises of any sort and are apt to get frightened. Sometimes they don't even like cheerful or boisterous noises. If either you or the horse do get a fright don't be loud and panicky. All that will do is panic the horse even more. Spend your time calming the horse. It'll calm you and hopefully the horse as well.

Always approach the horse from the front and slightly to one side. Talk to it.

The animals need to know that it is you approaching not some fearsome danger.

When there is more than one of you, try to keep on the same side. This way the horse has less difficulty watching both of you at once.

## CLOTHES

The clothes you wear around horses are important. It might be a lot of fun to ride barefoot with the wind in your hair, but it won't help when you fall off at thirty kilometres an hour and crack your head on a nearby stump.

Always wear shoes. Horses weigh around half a tonne and can significantly damage unprotected toes if they tread on them. Shoes should be sturdy and elastic-sided with smooth (preferably leather) soles which will slip easily out of the stirrups.

Trousers, not shorts or skirts, are safer, and track suit trousers if you don't want the expense of jodhpurs are probably the best.

A helmet, even if it is only a bicycle helmet, is a must. Pretty leather hunting helmets are no good if it's head protection you want.

Always wear gloves when you are handling, leading or riding horses. They will help you grip the reins in hot weather and could save you from a rope burn if the reins move fast through your hands.

When you are going on a long ride take warm gear in case it gets cool before you return.

Slap on some sunscreen. None of the helmets protect your face from UV light and no one wants skin cancer.

## TACK

The gear you use around horses should be chosen carefully and well maintained. Not only is it annoying if some piece of gear breaks just when you want to go for a ride, but it can be dangerous if it happens during the ride.

Make sure the saddle fits both you and the horse. You should be able to see daylight under the saddle when it is in place with a rider sitting on it. A lightweight synthetic saddle is a good idea. They are easy to wash and much easier to carry, particularly for small arms.

Choose webbing rather than leather reins. They are less likely to slip through your hands.

Your bridle should include a noseband so that the horse cannot open its mouth and bite you or anyone else. Make sure that the leather of the bridle is supple and easy to manipulate when you are



Lead a horse safely from the shoulder so it is less likely to bite or fall on you.

putting it on. Wash the bit after every use. Dry, caked on, masticated grass will only irritate the horse's mouth and lead to bad behaviour and health problems.

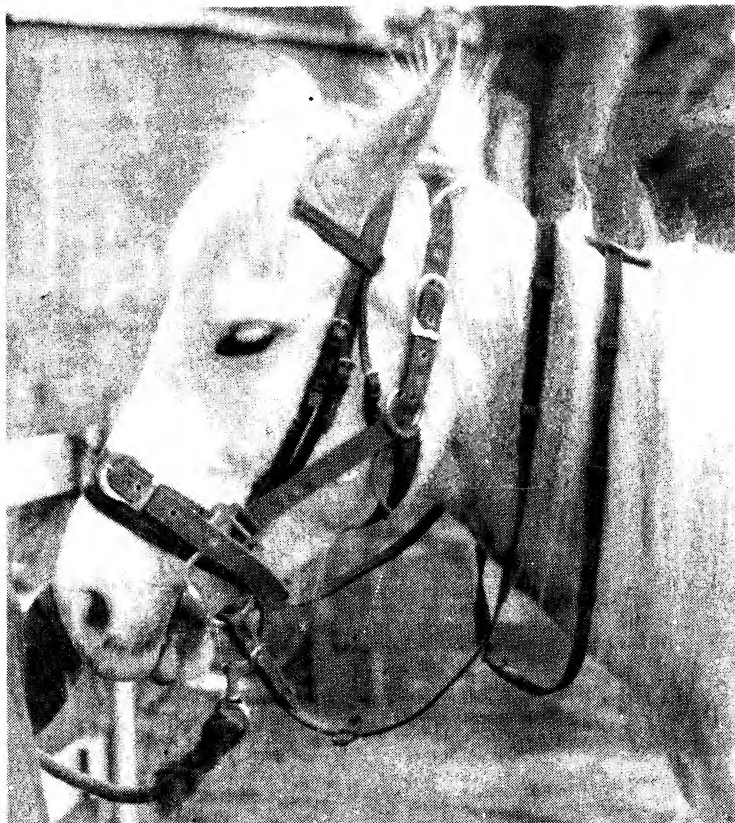
#### LEADING

Leading a horse is not as straightforward as it might first appear.

You should lead from the shoulder of the horse rather than from out in front. Not only is it harder for the animal to easily bite you if he has to turn his head but he is also less likely to fall on you.

Never lead a horse downhill if you can help it. Ride it. It is much safer on top than underneath.

Next time I will discuss the important topic of riding safety.



Well maintained tack is essential. Inspect it and make repairs regularly, both for your safety and your horse's wellbeing.

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## ACNE AND SKIN BLEMISHES

by June Connelly, Ringwood East, Vic.  
Mix equal amounts of cooking oil and cooking salt with fresh chopped garlic. Make up in reasonably small amounts and store in a flat, wide mouthed glass jar with a plastic lid (salt corrodes metal lids). Rub vigorously over blemished skin for a couple of minutes at night. Keep away from eyes. Wash your face at least twice, using laundry or unscented soap, preferably under a shower or running tap in a basin (it's rather messy). This method tones up skin and circulation, removes dead skin cells, excessive oil, bacteria, make-up and grime.

### HEALING 'VARNISH' FOR ACNE

Squeeze a fresh picked lemon, strain juice into a small jar, add an equal amount of methylated spirits and one tablespoon (or thereabouts) of fresh chopped garlic. Preferably allow to stand a few hours before using. Apply at bedtime, leave on overnight. Don't over-use this very affective 'varnish' as it is rather drying and does feel like varnish when applied. It will keep quite a long time.

### OINTMENT

Another very affective ointment to use for acne is Whitfield's ointment. (A very old remedy, possibly 100 years in existence.) It is generally used for fungal skin infections but is great on acne. Should be available fairly cheaply at your chemist. The makers are David Craig and Co, 2 Railway Terrace, Rocklea 4106. It is sold in 100 gram jars, in standard or extra strength.

# DOMES UPDATE

by Rob Lusher, Sylvania Heights, NSW.



A new plastic membrane coating for geodesic domes makes construction easier and cheaper.

Since writing the article on Geodesic Domes which was printed in GR 105 I have discovered an excellent alternative covering for plywood domes rather than the previously used imported asphalt shingles.

Emerclad is a flexible plastic membrane coating, made in Australia and tested extensively in Australian conditions. It is supplied in the form of a soft paste which is easily applied by brush, roller or spray. Bostik Seal-N-Flex polyurethane gap sealant is used in the external plywood sheeting joins to form a permanently highly flexible seal and an acrylic primer is then applied to the ply before several coats of the Emerclad protective skin. It is available in a variety of colours, is water-based and one can achieve different textures, by using a 'stipple' roller for example. It's advantages are that it is considerably easier and less time-consuming to apply than shingles, is cheaper, and in my opinion has a much greater aesthetic appeal.

Other products in the Emery range of protective coatings can be used for the protection, as well as decoration, of the

various materials used in new constructions, and for remedial treatment on existing buildings to halt water penetration, the spalling of concrete, and damage caused by erosion.

Product information can be obtained from: Emery Coatings Pty Ltd, PO Box 285, St Peters, 2044.

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## A CHEAP AUTOMATIC WATER TRANSFER SYSTEM

by Don Reynolds, Green Gully, NSW.

When I built our house, because of the guttering configuration, the largest water tank I could fit was a 6800 lt (1500 gal) tank. The council insists that the minimum water storage will be 45,000 lt (10,000 gal) so I bought a 45,000 lt tank and installed it about four metres above house level and 20 metres from the house. Both tanks were connected to the infeed pipe for the house. So whenever it rained I would connect an inline water pump between the 6800 lt tank and the infeed pipe to the house, this would then pump the water from the house tank to the large tank on the hill.

As the months went by the larger tank was almost full, then one night we had a downpour and I could hear the house tank overflowing and flowing down the driveway. 'What a waste,' I thought. It was too cold and wet to be outside fumbling around trying to connect up batteries by torchlight.

Now, I have had a little experience working on washing machines and some of them have two water levels which are selected by a switch on the machine, so I thought maybe I could use one of these. I approached my local washing machine repair man and purchased a switch for \$5 and took it home to see how I might use it. I found

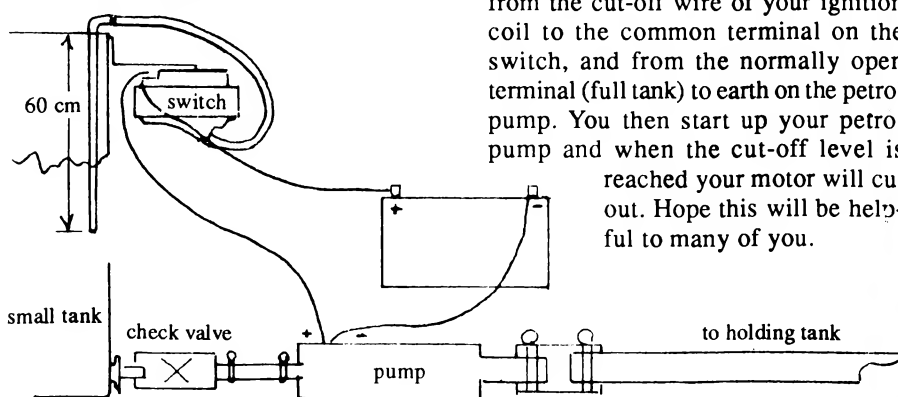
that the maximum high-low depth (on-off) was 100 ml. However if you are very careful you can remove the metal cover and replace the original spring with a heavier one. I did this and increased the depth to 200 ml.

Coupling the whole thing up is fairly simple. You will have to make a bracket to attach the switch to the tank. A piece of 6 mm copper pipe is soldered through the top of the water tank, which is connected to the air vent of the switch by plastic tube. You will find there are three terminals on the switch, this means it has normally open/normally closed configuration. By blowing into the air vent you will hear the switch click and with the aid of a multimeter you can find which two terminals to use to switch the pump on (full tank). Wire the battery/switch/pump up as per diagram. Connect the pump to the small tank and to the feed pipe to the larger tank with plastic tube and secure with hose clips. You will need a check valve between the pump and the smaller tank.

Now when your small tank fills, the pump switches on and pumps till the cut-off level is reached and then the pump switches off. When the tank fills again the cycle starts all over again while you are soundly asleep in your bed.

You can also use this system to cut off your petrol pump by running a lead from the cut-off wire of your ignition coil to the common terminal on the switch, and from the normally open terminal (full tank) to earth on the petrol pump. You then start up your petrol pump and when the cut-off level is reached your motor will cut out. Hope this will be helpful to many of you.

#### Wiring for the System



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# TROPICAL TOPICS

## THE GREEN TROPICAL TREE ANT

by Susan Hands, Innisfail, Qld.

Once when I was about ten years old I watched a war. It was fought over a period of three days and was as vicious as any war staged anywhere in the world. There were deaths in the thousands, bodies strewn from one end of the battlefield to the other, legs in the air kicking and quivering out their last eruptions of life—and the whole of this war took place on our back verandah.

Chemicals were used by both sides, in complete disregard of the Geneva Treaty. Cannibalism reigned ungoverned. It was a war of the lowest order. Finally, when one side stood victorious, the victors set about raiding the home of the vanquished, kidnapping the orphaned children and carrying them back to the victor's own household.

As a tribe the losers disappeared completely while the conquerors multiplied and expanded into the territory of the losers. War in its truest form. But the combatants in this war were green ants.

Within the tropical rainforest ecosystem gardens are never without the green ant. The green ant is a large tropical ant, about 15 millimetres long with a bottle green head, a red thorax and a light green abdomen and red legs, and has the aggression quota of a teenage boy on a Friday night in town.

Because of this aggressive nature most people do not like having them as lodgers in their fruit trees. And yet, in some circles they are considered beneficial to a garden. For example in many south-east Asian countries green ants are actively encouraged to take up residence in fruit trees by the placing of ant walkways from one fruit tree to the next, usually ropes or vines. These people consider the green ants as the gardener's little helper. The green ants they say are the predators that eat other bugs harmful to the fruit.

Here in Australia we do not know whether green ants are a boost to a garden or a pest as very little research has been done on the subject. Some gardeners swear that the ant is beneficial. They say it kills mealy bug, scale, and hundreds of other pests and these pro-green-anters state emphatically that no tropical garden should be without at least one green ants' nest hanging in the orange or mango tree.

Others state that the ant encourages aphids which the ant milks for a sweet liquid in a similar fashion to some of the North American ants. Apparently there is government funding for the study of ants in North America. Some people just do not like green ants.

As a family we belong to the pro-green-ant movement, although our cat reserves the right to vote with the opposition and completely refuses to eat from a dish that bristles like a green hairbrush.

### HOW TO ENCOURAGE ANTS

There is a certain white moth that lays its eggs in a green ant's nest. When these eggs hatch the larvae can wipe out a nest. Sometimes the green ants move their household lock stock and queen to escape

If you have a yearn to restock your trees with green ants the easiest way is to find a tree that has two nests and take the smaller one back to your tree. More than likely only one of these nests would have survived in the original tree so you'll be doing the ants a favour. To remove the nest simply detach the branch that holds it and place the branch in your tree. Even if the ants move out of the nest they will then establish themselves in your tree.

### HOW TO DISCOURAGE ANTS

For those who wish to rid their tree of green ants. If the nest is within easy reach offer it to someone who wants the nest.

If the nest cannot be reached you can:

- Place a barrier around the tree (a piece of cloth dipped in grease, Vaseline or oil). The ants cannot reach water and will die.
- Place out a container of sugar substance combined with a poison that the ants carry back to their nest, this wipes out the nest. The poison (there are a number on the market) is available in most gardening shops.
- Climb the tree and spray with insecticide or physically remove the nest. This should only be undertaken if you are well covered, as for raiding a bee hive; even then it is best done accompanied by a person below carrying a video camera.

When I was a child living in the rainforest at Cape Tribulation a local aborigine mentioned that some of the tribe used the green ants' nest to make an alcoholic drink. Apparently they soaked the nest in water, then drank the water. This particular bloke loudly pointed out though, that the drink sent you crazy and if he saw anyone drinking the stuff he quickly cleared out. I've never tried drinking the stuff although I have tried eating the ant. It tastes about on a par with stink bugs or those hot black lollies the kids suck at school.

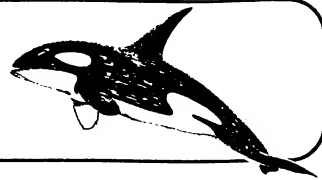
Personally, I vote for keeping the ants where they belong, in the trees doing what comes naturally, living.



A green tree ants' nest. Found in gardens and forests throughout the tropics, the ecological significance of these ants is largely unknown.



# Boo News



## WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The conference to be held on March 24th, 25th and 26th at the World Congress Centre Melbourne, is focused on environmental issues, present and future. Participants will share skills and experiences to then return to their particular environment informed with creative, innovative networks and ideas.

Women decision makers across all levels of the community, women active in environment and community groups, all those involved in, or affected by, environmental decision making will be participating.

Major goals and objectives are to enable women as decision makers in the private and public sectors, and as environmental and community activists, to meet and create the policies, networks and activities necessary for those groups to further pursue the protection of the environment.

To encourage and support women environmental activists in their work in the community.

To have major input into the Australian position of the UN World Conference for Women, Beijing, September 1995.

Saturday workshop themes will encompass:

- Natural resources, with water, desertification and land management the priorities.
- Biodiversity, with forests, as a priority.
- Sustainable cities and industry, with emphasis on the greenhouse effect.
- The relationship between environment, economy and trade.
- Indigenous peoples and the environment
- Health and the environment

A preconference workshop to update environmental priorities identified by women in 1991 will be held on Friday 24 March and will feed into the major Women and the Environment conference.

For further information contact: WHEN Australia, Ph: 03-428-9187, or Lyn at the YWCA Melbourne, 03-329-5188.

## FROG STUDY

The Frog and Tadpole Study Group of The Australian Herpetological Society Inc

(FATS) is conducting a study to survey 21 species of frogs known or suspected to be in danger in NSW. Anyone wishing to participate or obtain more information can contact: FATS, PO Box A2405, Sydney South 2000.

## CORAL WEATHER RECORDERS

Scientists at the Australian Institute of Marine Studies have discovered that corals on the Great Barrier Reef can provide information about weather variables over centuries. Corals absorb humic acid from plant materials washed into the reef by rivers. Coral skeletons have bands (similar to tree rings) which can be studied under ultraviolet light to trace rainfall levels – so far back to the 1640s, but eventually going back 1000 years or more.

Research indicates that there was a 16 year drought in the 1770s and 1780s. Four- year droughts are not exceptional. There is also evidence of several prolonged periods of high rainfall with seven or eight consecutive years of intensive monsoons. Interestingly, no long-term trend in rainfall patterns has emerged.

## INSECT-RESISTANT PEAS

Genetically transformed peas are the latest breakthrough from scientists at CSIRO Plant Industry. The peas are resistant to seed eating weevils – a major insect pest of pea crops.

Insecticides have been the normal method of treating these pests but many insects have developed resistance to the available chemicals. As well, the demand for less chemical use makes any alternatives that can reduce chemical application attractive.

Pea weevils are a particular problem in the developing countries of Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Africa and South America, where subsistence farmers must often store their harvested crops under poor conditions. In these countries a small weevil infestation in a storage bin can lead to near-total crop losses six months later. In that amount of time a single weevil may produce two and a half million offspring!

Leader of the group which produced the

transformed peas, Dr T J Higgins, said he hoped they would be able to apply the same technology to make other important food legumes such as chickpeas, cowpeas and mungbeans resistant to insect attack.

'What we have done is to introduce a protein into the seeds that blocks normal digestion of seed contents by weevil larvae. This means the larvae don't grow and develop into adults,' Dr Higgins said. The scientists achieved the breakthrough by using a gene found in the common kidney bean which has a natural resistance to seed-eating weevils.

According to Dr Higgins, consumers can expect insect-resistant peas to be commercially available by the turn of the century. The CSIRO scientists are working in collaboration with scientists from the University of California and Purdue University in the United States.

Reprinted from Rural Research summer '94-'95. For more information on this project contact: Dr T J Higgins on 06-246-5063.

## LANDFILL GAS

The disposal of waste is a major problem for all big cities throughout the world. A related environmental problem is the amount of gases given off by all those mountains of compressed decomposing matter. (Gases include 54 percent methane and 45 percent CO<sup>2</sup>). These gases can cause explosions, contaminate groundwater and hinder revegetation. Methane in particular is recognised as a significant greenhouse gas.

It is good news then to hear that the town of Narre Warren in Victoria is one of a growing number throughout the world which is tapping the landfill gases at its tip site to generate electricity. Electricity however is not the only product of the gas. A byproduct of the system is the creation of a lot of heat. In this case the heat is used as hot water piped to greenhouses where roses are grown. There is some poetic justice in the fact that beautiful roses emerge as an endproduct of garbage.

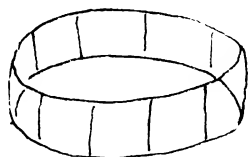
As a great deal of heat still goes to waste, currently under consideration is a paper recycling project, using steam to pulp waste, which will then be compressed into slabs of insulation board.

# Livestock Health and Management

## Information You Need but Haven't Known Where to Ask

If you have queries on any type of livestock send them in and we'll get our panel of experts to research the problem for you. Send them to Livestock Advice Page, Grass Roots, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666.

I was told about a flea collar by a Flinders Ranges stockman which he guaranteed would work for fleas and ticks. It is made from steel reinforcing mesh bent into a circle and welded together so it just fits over the animal's head and is then bent slightly out of round so it won't come off. It must be polished back to bright steel with a grinder and scratch cloth. Fleas passing the collar on their way to the dog's mouth for a drink get electrocuted by a static electricity charge generated off the steel rubbing the dog's fur. Two inches by three inches mesh  $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge is best for a dog about average cattle dog size. Don't put a heavy one on a small dog.



I wouldn't leave it on an animal all the time as I am wary of heavy collars.

**Geoff Findlay,  
TABULAM 2469.**

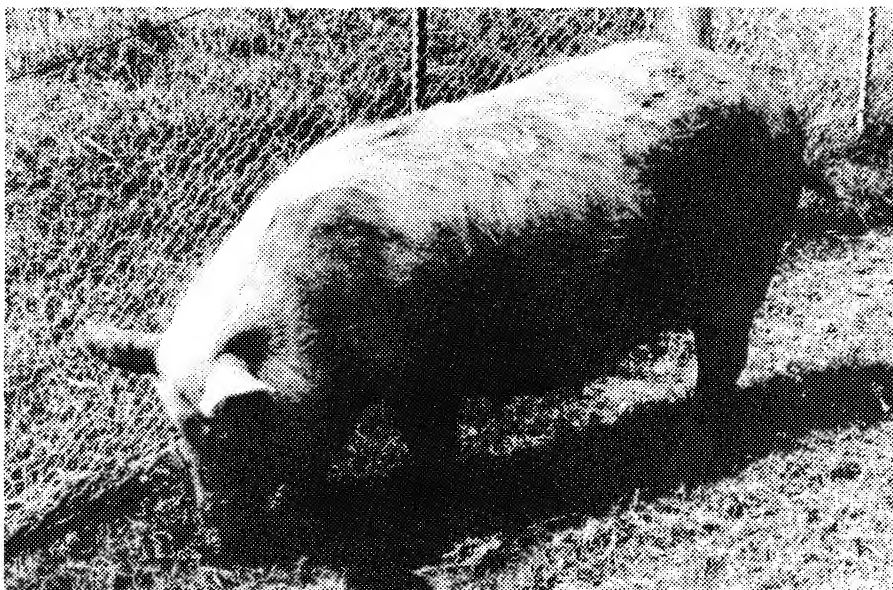
*We'd really like to hear from this Flinders Ranges stockman.*

I am interested in owning a miniature pig but have so far been unsuccessful in finding one available in Australia. If anyone has any information I would greatly appreciate it.

**Miss D Cawley,  
66 Betti Rd, KALAMUNDA 6076.**

I am hoping readers might be able to help me fill a couple of gaps in my on-going search for miniature livestock. I am looking for very small pigs and sheep etc. It doesn't matter what breed providing they are small and healthy. It's unlikely a breeding pair of Vietnamese Pot-Bellied hogs could be found in Australia but who knows what GR people may be able to come up with.

Now, to other end of the scale. I have heard that somewhere in Victoria someone is breeding a very large strain of guinea pig. Anecdotal reports suggest this type can weigh in excess of two kilograms. There is supposed to be a very large cavy, or guinea pig, farmed in the highlands of New Guinea and probably on some of the



Miniature pigs like this one are popular in England and America, but not available in Australia yet.

Melanesian Islands. If any travellers out there know anything about these varieties, I would love to hear from them.

**Lal Trenerry,  
Mini Downs Dexter Stud, M/S 1307,  
Pink Lily Rd, ROCKHAMPTON 4702.**

*Miniature livestock make sense for small holdings and in future issues of GR we will look at some of the smaller framed sheep breeds that are available. With cattle of course there are the Dexters and also the Lowline Angus. Miniature pigs however, are probably not available in this country. Overseas references have alluded to their presence in research institutions in Australia, but no further information was forthcoming. GR readers in general would be interested in any updates on either the Kune Kune (from NZ) or miniature pot-bellied breeds.*

I would like to share a dog food recipe that my dogs swear by.

3 kg kangaroo mince  
1 kg chicken carcass  
carrots, celery, leeks, onions to about 500 g  
4 cups brown rice  
bay leaves

I don't use any vegetables of the Solanaceae family (tomatoes, potatoes etc). Add fresh herbs (or dry), garlic etc. The rice quantities and vegie quantities

may need to be dropped initially, and gradually increased. The chicken bones cause no problems and guarantee a flavoursome stock.

Boil chook bones first – with bay leaves. Add mince and cook thoroughly. Puree vegies and add to mince for last 10 minutes of cooking. Cook rice separately. It is most important to mix the rice and meat quantities before too cool, or you'll break your arm trying to do so.

I would also like a good recipe for dog biscuits if readers have one.

**Yvonne Clarke,  
HEALESVILLE 3777.**

*Reader Lesley Kirby contributed an array of delicious sounding recipes in her article 'Another Itchy Dog Story' in GR 71, along with helpful advice on a range of common skin complaints.*

### ANIMAL PROBLEMS?

Access information quickly  
with the *Grass Roots  
Livestock Index*. \$5.95  
(including postage) from  
**Night Owl Publishers,  
PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.**

# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

**Dear GR Readers,**

This businesswoman suffering from 'burn out' seeks new horizons – in every aspect. Be it a peaceful refuge to recuperate in for a few weeks, an interesting alternative business proposal, ideas or advice.

I presume at least some of you have successfully escaped the rat race without eventually having to get on the dole. I used to enjoy yoga, meditation and attempts at growing organic vegies, and now feel a strong desire to return to these and other types of mind soothing, soul nourishing practices.

I'm very interested in natural healing and have a good knowledge of dietary energetics. I'd very much like to explore **ALTERNATIVE HEALING METHODS FOR ANIMALS** and any information on this will be appreciated, as will all replies.

Not cutting down all the trees, Eastern philosophy, self-sufficiency, George Orwell, energy efficient buildings and bringing back Robin Hood to deal with the 'incentive killers' (tax men) all make sense to me. Need I say more? You can ring me on 018-127-011 or write to the address below. I do intend relocating in the near future, perhaps the response to this letter will determine my destination and maybe even my destiny.

**L Smith,**

**33 Westbury Rd, STH LAUNCESTON 7249.**

**Dear Grass Roots,**

Thank you for a great magazine. We have found our piece of paradise at last up in the hills of Far North Queensland. I always buy products not tested on animals and we live as naturally as possible. I would like to make my own **CANDLES** free from tallow and animal products and my own **SOAP**, also free from animal products and also free from caustic. I am hoping you could help in this regard, please?

If you know of manufacturers I could write to, along the above lines, that would be helpful also.

**Caroline Tointon,**

**Mt Fox Rd, MS 702, INGHAM 4850.**



**Dear GRs,**

Does anyone have a cure for **BLACK APHID** in Allium vars (chives, garlic etc)? Everything I try seems not to work and I don't want to resort to chemicals.

**Jeff Holzgal,**

**24 Elizabeth St, ARGENTON 2284.**

**Dear GR Readers,**

For a **HEALTHY BREAKFAST**, try this for a change: Crush 12 Weetbix or Vita Brits (do it by hand... good exercise!). Add 1 cup rolled oats, 3/4 cup oat bran, 3/4 cup sultanas, 1 tablespoon cinnamon. Mix all together. I store mine in an ice cream container, and give it a shake each morning. Hot or cold milk.

**Audrey Crutchfield,**

**48 Lakeview Ave, MERIMBULA 2548.**

**Dear Grass Roots,**

What a great magazine this is, thanks for making it possible everyone. Friends and I are on a property near Grafton NSW where we are working our way to becoming as self-sufficient as possible and at the same time helping to heal our planet. Water here at times is scarce but we have learnt to be very conservative and treasure each precious droplet. We have fun and enjoy our lifestyle immensely, there's always so much to do and if you work with a smile on your face and in your heart then the tasks take no time at all.

Is there anyone that could give information and advice on alleviating **CURLY LEAF ON CITRUS TREES**? Our lemon and lime trees are not looking too happy. Also, **DWARF RABBITS** of which we have a pair and would like them to multiply just by a few: could anyone give us a few hints, tips etc on breeding? Actually, since the female rabbit has only just arrived on the scene the male's behaviour towards humans has changed dramatically from being loving to now behaving rather aloofly towards us. Is this typical?

If there's anyone in our area or anywhere for that matter who would

like to correspond we would love to hear from you.

**Skile,**

**C/- PO Box 740, PALM BEACH 4221.**

**Hi out there to everyone,**

A big hello to Henna, Bjane and Bo in Bowen. We are after any information on a **COMMUNE** that was being set up on **CAPE YORK**, or any information on land up there. We saw an ad in GR several years ago, but now cannot find it. We have at last reached the end of the tunnel, after four hard years getting our finances together. We leave for a new life next year. You just have to put your mind to it and you will get there.

**Lin & John,**

**1 Democrat Dr, THE BASIN 3154.**



**Dear GR Readers,**

Would anyone please be able to give my two children any information on where to obtain the caterpillar for the **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**? I remember having one as a child and it was great to be able to watch the caterpillar go through its life cycle.

I would also be interested to hear from anyone else who is **HOME SCHOOLING** their children with a view to maybe the children corresponding with each other. My children are boys of 7, 9 and 12 years and one daughter of 13 years who attends high school part time.

**Fiona Allen,**

**C/- PO, MARGARET RIVER 6285.**

**Dear GR & Readers,**

Thanks for all your bits of information over the years and the hours of entertainment. Now it's my turn to contribute to some reading material, as well as ask for something.

When my now 5 year old daughter was 2, I took on a caretaker position on a farm for 12 months. This changed my life. I was hooked. When the position came to a close I rented a cottage on a farm until my car decided it could no longer cope, forcing me to move back into town till I could afford another car. My daughter and I have now lived in suburbia again for almost 12 months and my heart yearns for the bush. Does anyone have a **COTTAGE** we could make a home of? I could afford to pay up to \$80 in rent, but would need somewhere I could indulge in my passionate interest of raising the odd native animal, something I have been doing for the past 10 years with **WIRES**. You can write or phone.

**Brigit Brunken,**

**2 Alkina Cres, MOSS VALE 2577.**

**Ph: 048-691-926.**

**Dear Grass Roots,**

I'm writing because I'm frustrated. We are doing **CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLING** with our son, 7. I can't send him to school because he was eating junk! I tried everything, even going to have lunch with him. I couldn't believe how no other children have salad or fruit, just mostly junk. So my son felt very different.

Does anyone have **LANGSHAN CHOOKS**? I'd love to have some information on them? I'd also like some feedback from GRs who have completed a **CANDIDA DIET** with success.

**Julie Reynolds,**

**Lot 144, Homeleigh, via KYOGLE 2474.**

**Dear Grass Roots,**

Thank you for a value for money magazine. I am writing to warn people of the **DANGERS OF WANDERING DOGS**. We recently lost our lovely Saanen doe after she was attacked by two husky type dogs. She was 10 days off kidding. Trying to obtain another dairy doe of her equivalent is very near to impossible and not only that, very costly. People will say, 'Oh it's only a goat', but it has upset me greatly. I would like to warn people to please be responsible for your dogs. Keep them tethered, especially if the dog is vicious. This situation could have been worse as one of the dogs entered our house, luckily my son had the sense to climb somewhere high. A small child could easily become a victim to savage dogs.

**Martina Morgan,**

**C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.**



# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear GR,

No 105 came up very quickly it seems to me, and there was a lot to ponder as usual. My heart went out to Doug Marsden of Lillian Rock when he told of the noise of portable generators shattering the peace and tranquillity of his paradise. King Island is riddled with many similar instances of personal space invasion by other people's noises. Picture my little cottage by the sea on one of the beautiful summery days we have had recently, with no place I can escape the neighbour's **GENERATOR NOISE** because they need to be watching the AFL final! Not to mention waiting every night for them to go to bed. The high cost of connecting to the 'Hydro' makes many stay with their old diesel thumpers, and the prospect of any price drop is just about nil, despite the latest enthusiasm for wind turbines by the powers that be. An extensive Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for us to see that everything has been thoroughly considered, from visual and noise pollution, to concerns about itinerant raptors colliding with the blades! It is great to see such concern, but it is rather sad that the same concern was not taken when hundreds of poles were erected all over the island only five or six years ago.

'New' age technologies are subject to much more stringent regulations than are the old ones. They are also expected to be economically self-supporting, when the old horrors have been heavily subsidised so that oil companies and the like may make healthy profits. All that aside, I have added another two solar panels to my power system and am even putting one on the roof of my bus/caravan/studio so that the trusty computer can travel with me. Just about everything else only needs Robyn power to work very efficiently.

I have no idea what the next year will bring. Surviving here is hard, getting a decent job is just about impossible, but I cannot imagine anything better anywhere else. So I continue spinning, making soap and paper and doing the occasional sewing or mending, and house minding or whatever else turns up that is within my capabilities. I have had to buy another old bomb car this year, but have painted most of the rust spots with 'converter' and hope it will last a year or two. The house stays so clean these days (relatively) without the kids, so there are always beds for GR visitors who happen to have enough time to visit ... I know how hard it is to leave an alternative lifestyle! Best wishes to you all and thanks for keeping the great magazine going well.

Robyn Eades,

RSD 119, NARACOOKA, KING ISLAND 7256.

Dear Readers,

I have been interested in **AROMATHERAPY** and massage for a while now and have found it very enjoyable and exhilarating. I have read many books on the topic and have found many new ideas and remedies. I am particularly interested in the use of aromatherapy in pregnancy, from early in the pregnancy to after the birth, and up to about one to two years of age. I am interested in both treatment for baby and mother which may incorporate massage. I have found it very hard to find a good book which relates to pregnancy using aromatherapy.

I am writing to ask GR readers if they could give up some time to jot down and send to me some tried and true remedies or blends you may have used whilst pregnant and ones you may have used after the pregnancy. Anyone replying with their own personal aromatherapy methods which they found helped during their pregnancy would be greatly appreciated. I am hoping in the distant future to write my own book, so any original or conventional remedies would be gladly acknowledged.

Simone,

C/- Post Office, MARYBOROUGH 4650.

Dear GRs,

We are working towards self-sufficiency and have had good success growing grain. My query is how do people **SEPARATE THE HUSKS?** Buckwheat is our most difficult, and also millet. With the wheat and barley I guess a sieve to rub them on and a wind to blow away the hulls will do it. Any suggestions are appreciated.

Debbie North,

PO Box 1059, MAREEBA 4880.

Dear Friends,

I have been reading *Grass Roots* for quite a number of years and must congratulate all those who have quit the rat race for a better life. My heart also goes out to all those farmers affected by the drought. I won't complain about getting too much rain any more. I will learn to live with the mud.

I would like to hear from other readers who would like a friend. It doesn't matter what sex or age. My passion is gardening (greenhouse, indoor plants, propagation etc.) I also love animals, particularly goats and horses.

Gael Boyes

RMB 4546, via MOE 3825.



Robin Eade's owner-built 'little cottage by the sea'.

GRASS 37 ROOTS

# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

## Hello Nice GR People,

No 105 was great! I've just finished making my second batch of washing machine detergent from the recipe you gave, it's pretty impressive stuff (better than a lot of manufactured detergents I've used!).

Unlike a lot of GR people I have no burning desire to go bush and beat my laundry against a rock but I do try and simplify my lifestyle wherever I can, partly due to severe lack of cash on my part, partly as an issue of conscience – there is something really sick about rampant materialism with the world in the state it's in. How can thousands/millions of dollars be spent developing yet another type of car/chocolate-bar/toy really be justified when you look at the levels of poverty even in the so-called civilised world?

A reply or two to feedback letters: To the guy who wrote about **MIGRAINES** (in 104, I think), another good cure I've found is valerian herb tea. Drink it as soon as you feel a migraine coming on and it'll knock it on the head, but it doesn't work as well on an established migraine. Valerian tastes like compost I'll admit, but even drinking compost is preferable to a migraine.

To Jack Jacob, who says that the girls using the Contacts section are too picky? Maybe so, but has he noted the amount of men who specifically ask for slim women? I would have thought that GR guys would be the last to buy into the mass media illusion that only slim women are attractive and worthy of pursuit!

Does anyone out there have a foolproof recipe for **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD**? My previous attempts have wound up looking and tasting like housebricks. At least if I decide to build myself a house I'll know what to use!

I'd like to see more articles like Starting a Self Reliant Lifestyle (105) for we suburban people who want to make better use of resources, save money etc, and maybe a regular 'basics' page for those of us who are new to self-sufficiency and need a bit of guidance and inspiration. How about it?

I'd also like to hear from people who have taken the plunge and become **MATURE AGE UNISTUDENTS**. I've applied to go to uni next year at the grand age of 27 but I have to admit my confidence about the whole thing is pretty low – inspiration please.

Nearly forgot! For those near supermarkets that sell those hideously expensive ready-made salads, these supermarkets often have large quantities of the containers that these salads are shipped in. All they do with these containers is throw them away. They are **HARD PLASTIC CONTAINERS** which are terrific for storing rice, flour etc. And would also be great for crafts. If you want some of them go and ask your supermarket, the worst they can say is no – or the opposite, give you more than you know what to do with, which is what happened to my aunt.

Sandy,

PO Box 1675, CABOOLTURE 4510.

## Dear GR Readers,

Help! Can anyone please help us with information regarding how to use a product called **BENTONITE**. We have just moved from suburban Sydney to a small property in south-east Queensland. On buying the property we were told the dam did not hold water, but it could easily be fixed with Bentonite. We have been here six months and nobody seems to know much about the product. Primac do have it on their books but cannot get any help on what to do with it so would be grateful for advice.

Our neighbours introduced us to your magazine last issue and we think it really is great so GR will be on my magazine list from now on. We found so much help and enjoyment in every page.

May & Stewart.

Lot 28, Terragon Rd, VILLENEUVE 4514.

Nick Romanowski's article on repairing leaking dams (GR 84) might help you. Back copies are \$4 each, including postage.

## Dear Grass Roots,

A friend recently lent me a copy of GR so I'm hoping you can help me. We are considering growing **ALOE VERA** and **TEA TREES** on a commercial basis, but are unsure of how to go about it. We would appreciate any information on either aloe vera or tea tree growing, maintenance, commercial markets, etc, or some addresses of people we could contact for further information.

Vikki Peterson,

24 Epsom Rd, CHILTERN 3683.

## Dear GRs,

I have noticed a few enquiries re recipes for sufferers of **FOOD ALLERGIES**. One book I have found to be very good is *Recipes to the Rescue* by Jann Bonner, Lindy Kingsmill and Suzanne Morrow. It has a good list of substitute foods for common foods, eg rising agents, gelatine, dairy products, and is very clear about what is/isn't in each recipe.

Now for the ask – I would like to hear from anyone on the **EAST COAST** between Mackay and Brisbane who has built, or is in the process of building, a mud brick house. My husband and I are travelling down this coast (looking for somewhere to settle) over the next six months and would appreciate hearing any hints re the building process.

Could anyone who has used **BIO-PAINTS** and a **WATERLESS COMPOSTING TOILET** in their home let me know what they think of these products?

Susan Flux,

C/- PO Box 118, CHARNWOOD 2615.

## Dear Readers,

Well, looking back through our back copies of GRs we realised we have been reading this wonderful magazine for 11 years. This is the first time I have written to GR in the hope that someone may have some answers or suggestions for us. Us being myself Fran, husband Allen, and sons Joel 13, Aaron 11 and Nathan 6, and of course Buck the dog.

We set out from Sydney in August 1986 in our old but faithful 1960 AEC bus. We have travelled quite a bit over the years, but now it is time to settle down and buy some land. We are very interested in **MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY**, but we don't know how to find out about them or where they all are. We love northern NSW and would like to find something around Murwillumbah, Kyogle, Lismore areas. We love the ocean so we would like to be within an hour or so of the beach. We are very alternative and we love and respect the bush. We grow all our vegies organically. The biggest thing we miss, after being on the road for so long, is close friendships. We have met some wonderful people, but unfortunately have lost contact with many over the years. This is why we look toward finding a friendly community to settle in.

If anyone out there knows of any shares in communities or has any views on them we would love to hear from you. We will answer all your letters. Looking forward to many more years of reading this wonderful magazine.

Fran and Allen Gray,

'Riverlodge'

120 Blackmans Pt Rd, PORT MACQUARIE 2444.



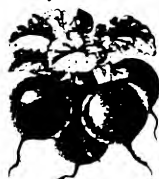
The Gray family and their bus.

# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Mary,

I have seen many letters from readers of GR requesting information concerning **ASTHMA**. I have a very old Gypsy recipe that may help some of your readers.

For asthma and chest complaints: the leaves of the sweet chestnut tree (*Castanea vesca*) – boil 30 grams of the leaves to each litre of water for 10 minutes. Strain and when cool add 15 grams of honey and 15 grams glycerine. Dose: A small wineglass upon rising and again after the last meal. Mary I hope this will help some of your readers.



Colin Franklin,  
YARCK 3719.

Dear GR and Readers,

In response to some queries in GR105.

B Grainger: **PICKLED BEETROOT**. Wash six medium beetroot, remove leafy tops without breaking skin. Simmer one hour in pan of boiling water. Rub off skins and discard. Cool beetroot, cut in half and pack in sterilised jars. Combine two cups sugar, one star anise, (optional) four to six peppercorns in one cup water. Stir over heat till sugar is dissolved. Cool. Cover beetroot with strained liquid and seal.

M Bates: **ANT PROBLEM**. We have found borax and icing sugar 50/50 on a lid where ants gather works well.

W Richmond: **CUTWORMS**. Myrtle Charteris of BOGG, Brisbane, cuts the bottom out of yoghurt and margarine tubs and pushes these into the soil a centimetre deep, around each seedling. The lids can be put on if there is a frost problem at night.

A & J Batchelor: Why not permaculture your front garden and grow vegies among the flowers?

J Webb: **BBQ sauce**. *Woman's Weekly Book of Preserves* has a delicious recipe on page 109.

Spring is slow to arrive here on the highlands, but we've been busy preparing new beds, renewing existing ones and starting seedlings. Planted out our zucchini inside two tyres to protect from last of light frost and they're growing well. Congratulations on 100th edition. I wish we'd had GR when we started out on our wild acres 25 years ago.

R Dark,  
TINGHA 2369.

Dear Feedback,

I found GR 105 very interesting in many ways. Hope all readers had a wonderful Christmas and may we all get the rain we so very much need these days. I've come across a sure **CURE FOR HEADACHES AND MIGRAINES**. I haven't tried it myself as I rarely get headaches. Take one teaspoon of mustard each day and it will work wonders for sufferers.

Gaelle Murray,  
PO Box 1180, HERVEY BAY 4655.

Dear Megg & GR,

Great magazine, thank you all. I guess **ANTS** must be a problem to many as requests for ant control are often printed here. An old timer's method was to place a chaff bag over the ants' nest and keep the bag wet, use bath water, sink water, urine, tea, anything. This eventually upsets the ants' environment, also causes fungus to grow and the ants will vacate the nest.

Don't discard an old shovel or spade. Heat it and bend it, to make a hoe; use a branch for a handle.

For **MAKING KNIVES** from old saw blades etc – holes will be required to fix the handle. The saw blade being harder than the drill, will require softening. Ironically (excuse the pun), the temperature used for hardening carbon steels is the same as the temperature used for softening the same steel. The difference is in the cooling rate. If the steel is heated to approximately 120° C then dipped in water, it will be hard. If placed in the furnace and allowed to cool slowly the same steel will be soft enough to drill.

Slow cooling may be accomplished by burying the blade in powdered lime, or even dry sand, air must be excluded, to keep the heat in the blade and slow the cooling rate. The handle area will not be required to be rehardened. If hardening is required just reheat it and quench it in water

or oil.

If you don't have a stone for sharpening knives a cement slab or rock will do. Using a fast speed grinder can burn knife edge (softening it). Good luck.

Kel Connell,  
PO Box 71, EAST GOSFORD 2250.

Dear GR Readers,

To Kim, Greg, Diane, Lyndon and all the others – I am alive and think of you plenty. My letter writing has been in a slump lately – sorry guys. Has anyone got a pattern for a **CROCHETED COTTON BIKINI**? Remember them? They were all the go in the 70s. I can't crochet to save myself, but I would like a pattern so I could get one made. Maybe someone could teach me to crochet!

To Hane Bēby (105): I had a brochure from a **COMPOSTING TOILET** company called Rotaloo, that included regulations regarding use of composted human waste. I can't remember the specifics but it stated that the compost should be buried some 30 or 60 cm under ground and not thrown on vegie gardens or used where it comes in direct contact with the edible part of a plant. I assume it is for precautionary health reasons. If I find the brochure amongst my ever-increasing piles of 'someday I'll need it' literature, I'll pass it on to you.

Also, if anyone has ideas on how to maintain a calm and sane environment with an almost hyperactive 2½ year old my son and I would really like to hear from you.

I think I've developed **INSOMNIA**. It's 12.20 am and due to a very small water heater a deep bath is out. What else could I try? I'm always tired during the day, loathe being plucked from sleep at 6 am by my little darling, but can't get to sleep until the early hours. Help!

One final request – is there anyone in the area who could teach me how to ride a motorbike? I love being the pillion but would like to know if I've got the co-ordination to ride the darn things myself. Here's hoping. Thanks for a great magazine – I've given up on all the others. GR has become a really good friend.

Kate Marshman,  
7 Creek St, TOOWOOMBA 4350.

Dear Folk,

Just a short note to let you know of our exploits. I have been with you since GR 22. We are in our early 30s with a three year old boy. We have reached our dream of 100 acres in the south-west of WA, midway between **MARGARET RIVER AND BUSSELTON**. Myself and husband grew up in this area as kids. We bought the land in 1988. It took everything we had to pay for it, but at least no mortgage. Then I was pregnant after 13 years together, so, action stations. Now we have our shed-home (like a flat), one completed chalet, opened two years in Easter '95, second chalet about four weeks away from completion, opening Nov-Xmas '94. Only one to build then!!!

Most of the block is natural bush, 40 acres is semi-pasture. I have milking goats, Muscovies and Khaki Campbell ducks. The gardens are growing and supplying 'sometimes' great food. Callam has a great life here, especially with his pet goat Minnie whom he rides everywhere. Any other readers in our area please feel free to contact us on anything – building, tourism, mud bricks, goats.

Joy, Simon & Callam Ensor,  
C/- Post Office, CARBUNUP RIVER 6280.



Dear GR,

Can anyone provide information on small-scale **COCONUT OIL PRODUCTION**, using hand-powered equipment. I use cold-pressed oil for my massage oils, soaps and natural potions, but regret having to use imported oil when there is an abundance of coconuts here in Cairns waiting to be harvested. I would need a hand press; drying rack and a tool to dehusk the nuts. I may be able to adapt existing equipment to suit. Any information or suggestions would be very welcome. In Cairns I can be contacted on 330-294.

Steve Nicholson,  
PO Box 443, SMITHFIELD 4878.

# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Readers,

We would like to know if any GR readers have a **KOTTOKOOL CHEST FREEZER**. We purchased one a couple of years ago and are very disappointed with it. It works OK during the winter months although it has never frozen bread. Every summer it stops freezing things. We live in the bush and have no mains power so we rely on a gas freezer – however we cannot rely on this freezer.

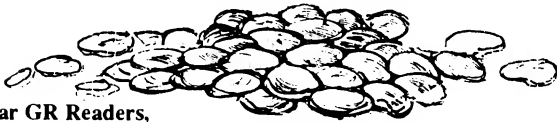
We thought we were doing something wrong even though we did everything by the book. We even contacted the importer who more or less said we must be doing something wrong and he was also very rude in a phone conversation we had with him. We did everything he said but nothing improved with the operation of the freezer.

A bottle of water will take over a week to freeze in the summer time. We can't even make ice blocks for our children as they won't freeze. We have already been in contact with another unfortunate owner of a Kottokool freezer and they have the same problems as we do which leads us to believe that the freezer must be at fault and not us.

We paid seventeen hundred dollars for the freezer and in the time we have had it we've probably wasted that much food which has gone off. Also, we shop monthly and it is very inconvenient not to be able to freeze things, including our excess garden produce.

So, if there are any people out there who do own a Kottokool 210 litre LP gas freezer we would like to hear from you and perhaps we can get the ball rolling and get something done about it.

Diane & Mark Riggs,  
Lot 20, Appletree Flat Rd, ASHFORD 2361.



Dear GR Readers,

I have been an avid reader of GR magazine since it began and I have discovered it's the only magazine you cannot lend to others; they never come back even when promised otherwise.

I would like to start **COLLECTING SEEDS** as I am now retired (50) and have time to spend in growing my own chemical-free vegetables. Planning is also underway for my **AROUND AUSTRALIA TRIP** in 1996 and I would like to travel to as many country towns as is possible and meet as many GR readers as time allows.

I am keenly interested in Tasmania and 'out of the way' places. A lot of small country towns are passed by because of the highways yet they have a lot to offer in the way of interest and entertainment. Would anyone care to write to me from anywhere in Australia (or overseas)? I am very much involved in the arts and a responsible member of the community, so please write and tell me all about your love of the GR way of life. Who knows? Perhaps one day you will add my name to your list of friends. All letters will be answered.

Does anyone have a good recipe for a moist long-lasting **BAKED** (not boiled) **FRUIT CAKE** to pass on to me? Many thanks to all.

Leede Barron,  
PO Box 220, NUNAWADING 3131.



Dear Megg, David and Grass Roots People,

I was searching through my back numbers and realised that it is ten years since I last wrote. My how time flies.

I am intending to install a **BIO-GAS PRODUCER**, could anyone with experience in operating such a gas producer, advise me on successful designs and any pitfalls I can expect.

I have been working with **JOJOBA** for a few years, and have experience in growing, harvesting, expelling oil, and some marketing experience. If anyone wants advice on this interesting plant, please feel free to write.

I am also asking for advice on growing **MACADAMIA NUTS**, any information would be gratefully accepted.

To conclude I am asking if anyone in Australia is producing **COPRA**, I am interested in obtaining a few bags of it.

Wally Davies,  
PARACHILNA 5730.

Dear GR People,

This is an open letter to say thank you to all the people who wrote to me with ideas on controlling and killing **CUTWORM**. I have had too many letters to answer personally so thought I would share some of these peoples' ideas with everyone else.

A cutworm trap – make a trap of sawdust soaked in a mixture of molasses or sugar and water. Place around base of plants and it will attract cutworm at night, they get stuck and dehydrate during the day.

When planting seedlings put an open-ended can or cup or butter container around seedling, and push a few centimetres into the soil. This creates an effective barrier as cutworms mostly live on the surface.

Lay clear plastic over bare ground for three weeks and the sun will heat the ground and kill cutworms. This method may kill off beneficial insects and organisms as well, so be careful.

Betty from Caboolture suggested I might have slugs instead of cutworms as they do similar damage to seedlings.

Well, for some reason we do not have snails or slugs at all in north Queensland, at least I have never seen any. I think the rainforest may have a species of snail living in it and I have seen them amongst mangroves but certainly not in suburban gardens.

Colin Franklin suggests planting French marigolds around the garden plot as cutworms hate the smell.

Colleen Fulton sent info from the Department of Agriculture in NSW with various methods of control including predatory birds and insects.

Very wet weather makes cutworms climb out of the soil to higher ground where they can be preyed on by birds, or some even drop down if the soil becomes wet enough. Since writing my letter I have purchased Jackie French's book, *The Organic Garden Problem Solver*, and recommend it highly.

Thanks again everyone who wrote, and I hope you don't mind that I copied some of your info for publication in this letter.

Wendy Richmond,  
10 Hancock St, EDMONTON 4869.

Thanks for sharing this information Wendy, we're sure it will be of interest to many readers.



Dear GR,

I've been making **GINGER BEER** (nonalcoholic) for the family for many years using a similar recipe to that published in GR 94 from Rosetta Berry. The comment from Allan Menzies in GR 104 promoting the use of a hydrometer when making ginger beer has prompted this letter. I only use glass bottles because I feel I can sterilise them more easily than plastic ones, and apart from a blow-out about 18 years ago have had a satisfactory safety record with them. The trick is to use screw-top bottles and periodically release the top (carefully) to gauge the 'fizz'. I find that, depending on the weather, my ginger beer will fizz from two to seven days after bottling, and as soon as I detect a bit of fizz, into the fridge they go, therefore inhibiting any more fizzing, or blow-outs.

Kaye Norman,  
PO Box 39, KANGAROO VALLEY 2577.

Dear Grass Roots,

Does anyone have knowledge of an effective blowfly deterrent? (chemical-free of course.) Any information on herbs, oils, or biodegradable solutions that repel the flies, as well as traps that are known to work, would be gratefully received, as we live in an old farmhouse surrounded on four sides by cow paddocks, and, consequently, cow manure. The flies are bad now but by summer the crafty beggars will be unbearable!

Also, I was at Uki markets earlier this year and purchased some **WASH-CAKES** from a lady. All I know is that they were made from castille soap, essential oils, and orris root powder. If anyone knows of a recipe for these little aromatic soap cakes could you let us know? And any information about nonchemical shampoos and conditioners that are cheap and easy to make would be appreciated.

We would also like to get in contact with a friend, Jenna McDiarmid. Last time we saw her she was living on the Tree Farm, Burringbar NSW, but I believe she may have moved to the Blue Mountains.

Justin Shipley & Chici Sharpe,  
RMB 830, Scotsdale Rd, DENMARK WA 6333.



# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Friends,

We wish to thank all those who replied to our letter in GR 102 re **VEGETARIAN BABIES**. We received so many replies and they are still coming in (now mid Aug). I tried to reply to all but missed a few, thank you to those I missed. Alannah is now 17 months old and doing beautifully, she is very happy and healthy. I don't envisage too many problems as we will be moving to the country within the next two years away from carnivorous family influence (I must say they have been really good so far.) and she will be going to a Steiner school where I hope there will be less of a peer problem for her.

We have bought 17 acres in Bonnie Doon, Victoria, where we plan on practising permaculture, self-sufficiency and raising happy, healthy children. We would love to hear from anyone in the **BONNIE DOON/MANSFIELD AREA**. Letters from owner builders in the Mansfield Shire (now Delatite Shire) with tips on dealing with the council would be great.



Cam, Geoff and Alannah Pitt,  
C/- PO, KANGAROO GROUND 3097.

Dear GR Team,

A couple of issues back someone enquired about a recipe for **CANDIED MELON**. I was very surprised when I uncovered this recipe in an old collection belonging to my mother-in-law. It sounds very interesting and I wonder if other fruit could also be treated in this way.

Take 4½ kg of melon, 60 g washing soda, 4 kg white sugar, a handful of whole ginger, and some orange peel. Cut the melon into blocks about 75 mm square, then prick each piece well with a fork. Dissolve the soda in some hot water, then add it to as much cold water as will cover the quantity of melon you have. Let it remain in the soda water one night. In the morning take it out and put on to boil in fresh water, let it boil for about one hour, no more (this cleanses it of the soda). Then take it off the fire and drain it in a clothes basket or anything that will suit the purpose. When it has drained put it into fresh clean cold water and let it stand another night. The next morning drain it well and put part of the sugar you are going to use in the preserving pan, and just merely moisten it with water and put it on the fire. When well heated put in your melon. Stir it often, and only have a moderate fire; add ginger and peel, then add the rest of the sugar by degrees and boil till all the moisture has evaporated, then when it cools the sugar candies around the pieces of melon. Take time over this.

For anyone seeking a copy of the DC Jarvis book titled '**FOLK MEDICINE**', I suggest you search out the second-hand bookstores in your area. I have purchased two copies recently from a local shop. Another book which has many uses for cider vinegar is *The Vinegar Book*, by Emily Thacker.

Would anyone have a recipe for yeast-free **RICE BREAD**? I would also like to hear from anyone who is allergic to foods and chemicals and as a result has undergone a complete lifestyle change. I am particularly interested in hearing from anyone who has had to move in order to lessen their exposure, or if anyone can offer suggestions on ways I can avoid exposure to chemicals within the home. Has anyone built a chemical-free home, or are there any books available on the subject?

Rosemary Lyons,  
PO Box 801, LAVINGTON 2641.

See answers to similar requests in GR 105 Feedback.

Dear Readers,

'**HOME MADE WINES**', by Peggy Hutchinson and Mary Woodhouse, has 98 recipes for nonchemical, natural based wines, beer, ales, cordials, fruit and other syrups, jams, jellies and marmalades, plus a section on fruit bottling. Recipes include mead, brandy, sherry and gin, plus vinegars, sack, peppermint syrup and an array of unusual wines such as marigold, comfrey, lemon, apricot and balm. The nettle beer sounds interesting. The book is a 1958 printing, published by W Foulsham and Co, England. I'm sure it will have been reprinted many times, so good luck with finding a copy. The one I have is tattered and powdery so I'll be busy soon, copying it all into an exercise book, before it disintegrates completely.

Maybe someone can advise me of **EVERGREEN SHADE TREES** that are fast-growing, pest and disease resistant, long-lived, and hopefully, sweetly perfumed. I'm trying to establish a perfume garden in a hot, dry area. We get very little rain and long, hot summers.

Dengue fever is a problem around Christmas time and it would be great to hear from anyone who knows of mozzie repellent and natural personal repellents too. I've found that the little suckers don't like Vegemite (vit B) or garlic eaters, but they seem partial to imbibed fisher folk.

If anyone has seeds or cuttings suitable to an arid area, I'd welcome them and respond in kind. I can't afford to buy from nurseries too often and their range is limited by what's seasonally available to them anyway. Of particular interest to me: herbs, white belladonna lily, white or cream angels trumpet/datura, and a tree called Cuban bast. I will have seed available soon for *Acacia frimbriata* (fringed wattle), which is fast growing, drought resistant, shady and exquisitely perfumed. Please send an SAE, though.

PS. Caresse, John, Carmen and Jantzen Officer: Coo-ee.

Jeanette Miller,  
'Touchwood Cottage',  
4 Jane St, CHARTERS TOWERS 4820.

Dear GR Folk,

It disturbs me to see the continued use of carpet, Feltex and **UNDER-FELT AS MULCH**. According to a Mr Alan Earl of North Ringwood who writes in another magazine, this dangerous practice has ruined the lives of some organic farmers in Tasmania. Their nut orchard, planted in virgin soil, mulched with carpet and underfelt, heavily contaminated their orchard soil with dieldrin, forever barring them from organic farm certification. Please don't use it.

The folk medicine doctor, DC Jarvis, has been claimed by our Jarvis relatives as part of the family, even though he is American. One of our Jarvis cousins tried, and over-indulged on, the **CIDER VINEGAR FOLK MEDICINE** cure and developed a heart murmur. So please use moderation if trying this method for weight loss or an aid to improve health.

Garlic is one of the best aids to ease pain from **VARICOSE VEINS**. Odourless garlic tablets (Blackmores, \$26 for 500 tablets) have eased my legs for about twenty years. Garlic thins the blood. The thin blood travels easily through knotted or damaged veins. Elastic stockings aid and relieve tired legs, especially for anyone standing for long periods, in one place.

To join **WWOOF** send \$10 (single) or \$25 per couple travelling together to: **WWOOF**, Buchan, Victoria 3885. They will send you a booklet by return mail. Hosts pay \$20 for a year's listing.

Organic farmers wanting to enlarge their operation perhaps should investigate the advantages of **CHINESE WEEDER GEESSE**.

Vandals kicked my newly planted tree in the nature strip, splitting it so badly that survival is doubtful. A hasty bandaging job and a prayer was all I did, but a friend of my son's said the bandage should have been soaked in a vegetable oil to prevent the air seeping through the bandage, therefore aiding recovery. Has anyone tried this method?

My best wishes to all GR folk. I usually read the magazine over several times. Your successes are applauded, disasters or misadventures read with sorrow as they usually cost someone more than they can afford to lose. To all folk contemplating alternative lifestyles – do your homework, please. Suffering from information overload is better than suffering financial disaster, heartbreak, ill-health from stress, or a marriage breakdown through lack of knowledge.

June Connelly,  
29 Dublin Rd, RINGWOOD EAST 3135.

Dear GR Readers,

I've become a GR reader quite a few magazines ago. And the magazine has become my treat which I totally enjoy. I now have a request to make. Is there anybody that grows their own **ASPARAGUS**? If there is could I buy some from you? Also, I would like to know growing and cooking instructions. I'm another organic gardener. I have a large vegie garden and also a smaller and older garden. I would be thankful for the help.

Joanne Marriott/Yeark,  
'Maggie Mae', Buckett's Way,  
Wards River, via STROUD 2422.

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# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

**Dear Harmony Lovers,**

In answer to Diane Hicks' letter, GR 105, I too felt there was not a man alive on their own and 'normal'. I too wanted to grow old and at peace with a loving caring male.

Being a supporting mother of two and 32 years old, not anorexically slender as these GR males always advertise I felt not good enough, yet I found the most wonderful husband on the mines in outback WA.

Girls, there are many beautiful down-to-earth gentlemen out there, most saving for that bit of paradise, who would cherish a wife, yet feel no Aussie girl has the patience to wait for them, so they end up with mail order brides. So give it a go. Don't say die, ever.

Can anyone pass me information on **LEAKING DAMS** and how to rectify them. Also Sue & Barry Donnelly from mid north coast, now south Queensland – where are you? Please, please write and say hi.

**Mrs Francoise Hartzer,**

**59A President St, KALGOORLIE 6430.**

*Nick Romanowski in GR 83 described how to build a watertight dam, and in GR 84 how to repair a leaking one.*

**Dear GR Readers,**

I haven't written to feedback before, but have been reading GR for about two years and enjoyed all issues. Could anyone please help me? I am looking for some **SILK WORMS**. Where do I get them? How do I look after them? I am a spinner and have spun silk and enjoyed it. I would like to have my own silk worms. Someone must have some information for me. Thank you.

**Chris Robinson,**

**PO Box 1432, CABOOLTURE 4510.**

*GR 69 has an article on silk worms, but further information would be valuable and we would like to hear from you.*

**Hi,**

Saving, saving, always saving. Two years of scrimping and penny pinching and that piece of land where I can finally build a home is within sight. Gets to be a drag sometimes though, especially when your heart longs for the peace of the country but your bank account wants you to stay in this city just a little longer. It would be great to hear from others following this same path. Also if anyone can tell me where my slice of heaven is (north NSW?) then this 31 year old, woodworker with heaps of positive energy would love to hear from you too.

**Dave Armstrong,**

**13 Corkery Cres, ALLAMBIE 2100.**

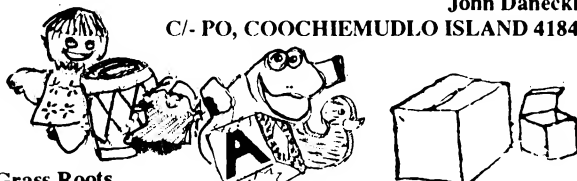
**Dear GR Readers,**

Having read Toni Shepherd's letter about Russell Island I moved to the island in the hope of finding what treasures remained. During my stay I discovered the other Morton Bay Islands and eventually settled on **COOCHIEMUDLO**, which I believe is the greatest treasure of them all. This is a small countrified island with only 450 people and 24 hour access to the mainland via water taxi.

Whilst admittedly the blocks of land are small there are fruit trees growing in the streets, and using an intensive permaculture system you can make your block reasonably productive. Some acreage is also still available. Whilst not suitable to all GR people it is a perfect little niche for some of we GR philosophers.

**John Danecki,**

**C/- PO, COOCHIEMUDLO ISLAND 4184.**



**Dear Grass Roots,**

Thank you to the different ones who sent me the information about hobby/flea markets in south Queensland. I was droving cattle when I got some replies about these ads so could not answer.

Now can anyone send me information about **HOBBY/FLEA MARKETS IN NORTHERN NSW?** I belong to an Aboriginal arts, crafts, sewing group and we are looking for markets to sell our things. Or maybe arts, crafts shops who would like to stock them.

**'Jillaroo',**

**Dead Bird Mission,**

**Off the Emmaville/Yarrangower Rd, ASHFORD 2361.**

**Dear GRs,**

A belated thank you for sending me an extract from GR on the subject of **CHEWINGLEAVES TO COMBAT ARTHRITIS**. This was started by my next door neighbour, a widow, of about 70 years. She happened to mention one day that she was now free of arthritic pain in her hands. She had bitterly complained to her brother-in-law who told her that quite some months ago he had read the story about chewing leaves and he had been painfree for some time since adopting this cure.

I have a good male friend nearing 65/70 age who has been warned that unless he really starts to find a cure he will gradually get into more trouble. It was for his sake that I made the inquiry. My age is 91 and I have had arthritis for more than 20 years but in a mild form. My friend has started chewing. Thank you for your help.

**C Buckley,**

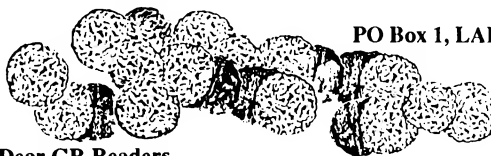
**HAMPTON 3188.**

**Dear GR,**

I have some **QUANDONG SEEDS** and I would be grateful if some reader could tell me how to get them sprouted and the care of the plants as they grow. Water, soil conditions etc.

**Mrs D Ward,**

**PO Box 1, LABRADOR 4215.**



**Dear GR Readers,**

I read with great interest, the letter from Ellie Whitaker (GR 105) defending cats. Two years ago I adopted a **STRAY KITTEN**. She was sick with pleurisy and had a lame front leg. She was treated, and a few months later spayed, and has grown into a lovely cat, and is a dear companion for me. She has helped me over a very difficult period in my life, so perhaps she was sent my way! I get so angry with people who do not have their animals desexed. They complain about the cost, but think nothing of spending money in other useless ways. Rosie has sometimes brought me in a 'gift' of a lizard or a dead mouse, but I can cope with that. The magazine as usual is full of interest, and the descriptions of other peoples' hobbies and interests are quite amazing.

I have to say though, I am a little disappointed to have no replies from some people I have tried to help through the pages. It doesn't take long to write a few lines. A very Merry Christmas to you all.

**B Jenkins,**

**2/22 Beattie St, SCOTSDALE 7260.**

**Dear GRs,**

Has anybody out there got a pattern for a **ROPE HORSE HALTER** that they would like to share? The ones made using fine cotton rope and knots – no buckles. Love the mag – best wishes to all.

**Lynda Corbridge,**

**2 Showgrounds Rd, MT MORGAN 4714.**

**Dear GR Readers,**

Like everyone who buys this good value mag I love the input. Still think Gumnut Gossip should be at the beginning not the last item. Gwen Morton you lucky so and so; how the heck did you get all back issues right to No 1? Marje Bates, I found the easiest way to get rid of ants and any other **CRAWLIES IN THE HOUSE** is to just sprinkle pepper around.

**Mary Mathews,**

**PO Box 300, JARRAHDALE 6203.**

**Dear GR,**

Several people have asked how to **STOP SNAIL SEATING PLANTS**. Well I find one of the good ones is the fine ash from a fire, spread it around the plants and snails are not able to crawl on it. And if you are lucky enough to have a group of slugs about as big as your finger, black on top and white underneath and the female is brownish, they live near water, don't kill them, they eat snails.

I use the very very old Martha Gardner wool wash: 4 cups pure soap flakes, 1 cup metho, 50 ml bottle eucalyptus oil. Put all in a screw top jar and shake well, then use as wanted. It keeps well. When you have finished washing throw the used soap water on any bush that has wogs on it, roses, lemon trees, anything, it is good.

**Mrs C H McCall,**

**Wantirna Rd, RINGWOOD 3134.**



# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear GR,

I greatly enjoy the fresh down-to-earth magazine you produce. Every time I get my new issue I'm so happy and sit and read it immediately, knowing it will encourage and inspire me. My husband and I have four children aged from seven to two years of age and we are hoping to move out onto the land in the next few years – we have to sell our house first. For now I make all my own soap and cleaning products and love to cook after a trip to the markets. I am a home schooler, none of my children have even been to school. I would love to hear from anyone as penpals, or just to swap recipes and ideas.

Miriam Montgomery,  
22 Eskdale Close,  
NEW LAMBTON HEIGHTS 2305.

Dear GRs,

When I was a kid I overheard a conversation between my mother and aunts and its general gist was this: some German doctor had a theory to stop cancers, bone necrosis and other nasties by only eating food which was no longer than one day 'dead'. Vegies should be plucked a few minutes before eating – in fact, if I remember rightly, picked leaf by leaf as required. As a result of this I recall my mother getting green leaf vegies from friends, roots and all, and keeping them alive on the kitchen windowsill in small stoneware jars filled with water and half a teaspoon of sugar to feed them. The record was a lettuce which lasted three and a half months (We used the outer leaves as it continued to grow from the centre) and spring onions continued to grow until we ate them, leaves and all. It was a lovely live decoration and pests could be quickly disposed of simply by picking them off. Definitely no chemicals. Was this the first hydroponics? I don't know about that, but it was pretty radical in the thirties. We kids were encouraged to have a lettuce leaf snack as we needed and I remember grazing quite happily through my early years, no lollies or salty potato chips during the war.

As for the German doctor's **FRESH FOOD THEORY**, I have heard snippets over the years of something like it – eg if you eat anything without the life force what do you think you can expect? Touted dangers of food suffering from aerobic and anaerobic infection if not consumed soon after picking, even frozen food frowned upon as not being healthy – sounds a bit superstitious at times. I guess we will still be arguing about it in 2000 years time.

To all those city dwellers who regularly write to GR feeling **ENVIROUS OF THE BUSH LIVERS**. Well, it's not all roses out here, especially during drought. You are the envied ones then. And if you don't have good land, the returns can be pretty marginal. You have to spend a lot on petrol

and cars generally, as a supermarket may not be exactly next door. Pests and parasites can turn a good thing into a negative gearing you didn't want. The pests and parasites can take so many different forms, even two legged ones.

On a quarter-acre city or suburban block you would be surprised what you can produce, and of course you are learning skills of gardening that you have to learn somewhere. One big tip though. Get a large capacity (eg swimming pool type) filter with fine element to remove the chlorine, aluminium and fluoride from the water supply as these tend to burn leaves and mark fruits.

So why do I live in the bush you ask? For me, nothing could replace watching nature at work, the changing seasons, the changing weather. Looking outside now, while writing this letter, I can see five types of birds, fifteen million bugs and ants, and five kangaroos grazing on the lawn. At nights you can see the stars and imagine. Who needs to go to church when God's own cathedral is all around you? It is a humbling and very spiritual existence. I wouldn't change it for quids.



Roberino,

Lot 4, ARRAWARRA BEACH 2456.

Dear GR Readers,

I have been searching everywhere for a **MUESLI BAR RECIPE** and so far I've had no luck whatsoever. Please, does anyone have a tried and proved recipe they could share with me? Thanks in anticipation and also thanks to Megg and Co for the best magazine around.

Jean Morrison,  
10 Clifton Street, BUNBURY 6230.

*While researching for our kitchencraft and recipe index (to be published in 1995), we came across a beaut recipe in GR 51.*

Dear GR Readers,

I am hoping someone can help me with a recipe for an **OINTMENT BASE**, preferably natural ingredients. Also, does anybody have designs of a two storey A-frame building with ground floor 6mx6m, just something small?

Craig Russell,  
14 Boland Ave, BURNIE 7320.

Dear Readers,

G'day. After years of reading GR (since No 30), I feel an affinity with the people and lifestyle depicted within its pages. My young family and I are tired of being bundled along with no real direction and are considering a 'jump' off the merry-go-round of work, stress, debts, anger and confusion. We have a few problems, not the least of which is having the guts to take the plunge. We know we are not living the way we should and with each year our desire to need less but be more becomes harder to ignore. Some letters of encouragement would be greatly appreciated, we need ideas and your experiences.

We are considering the purchase of land or a community share, we have many skills to offer: steelcraft, fitting, building, early education, agriculture, and feel we could contribute in the right environment. Thank you for a terrific link with sanity, we look forward to your letters.

Arderns,  
C/- Post Office, TOWONG 3707.

Dear Megg, Staff and Readers,

Thank you all for making me feel part of an Australia-wide family. The hints, advice and most interesting articles published are all very welcome to me. I have a small property near Dardanup in Western Australia and have been trying for the past year to create my little heaven all on my own. Some of the jobs are very hard for a person alone, so I would be willing to share my home with **WWOOFERS** who may be travelling around Australia, just for a couple of months, or weeks as the case may be, so that they are able to have accommodation in exchange for some labour that I need to have done.

I am hooked on spinning, felting and any handicrafts that involve using one of Australia's most valuable assets – wool.

Thank you for the great magazine, which I eagerly await.

Julie G Earl,  
Lot 82, Gavins Gully Court, DARDANUP 6236.



Roberino wouldn't change his life for quids.

# Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Editor,

I read the article titled Marvellous Mulch in issue number 106 and I must disagree with one piece of advice given by the author, using **OLD CARPET FOR MULCH** is not to be recommended.

I should explain that I am employed as Certification Officer by the Organic Herb Growers of Australia and in the course of my duties I have become aware of this problem. The impregnation of carpet with chemicals was apparently common at the time when the vintage of carpet which you would be using for mulch was being made.

I have Certificates of Analysis done on pieces of carpet from different properties showing contamination with Heptachlor, Dieldrin, Chlordane, Chlorpyrifos and DDT at levels up to 6000 times those allowed for 'Grade A' Organic rating under our certification system. Some of these chemicals will leach into the soil and may be taken up at lower concentrations by anything grown in the vicinity of the carpet. I do not believe that this is still being done to new carpet but then not many of us are in a position to use new carpet as mulch.

Tony Ullman,  
213 Magellan St, LISMORE 2480.

Dear Grass Roots,

Following previous articles on the **NEEM TREE** in your magazine, I purchased the Bostid book on neem and also some neem extract.

It has been successful in keeping fleas off dogs and although my experiments in the garden have been limited so far, it looks very promising. Neem promises to have a wide range of applications against garden, household and farm pests.

However, data on the method of application is very limited and there appears to be no organised link-up between people experimenting with neem extract.

I would love to hear from other people using neem, detailing application rates and results. All genuine letters will be answered.

Jeanette Gow,  
27 Beach Ave, South Golden Beach,  
NEW BRIGHTON 2483.

Dear Friends,

By the time this reaches everyone, you will probably all have given up on me, but please let me explain. In GR 103 I had a request in Feedback for some seeds and advice. Thank you to everyone that replied and may I add that I responded personally to all but two of the letters, these two arrived last and I didn't get a chance. In August of this year ('94), all of a sudden our life turned upside down. We became instantly unemployed with a near-new mortgage, no savings, and no way of paying the next month's home loan repayment. The only way to hold onto our house was to rent it out and move in with my parents until we can find work again. One problem is my parents live in Queensland so this is where we are at the moment. Our furniture etc is in storage and the box containing all your letters is in the middle somewhere and at the moment can't be reached. I don't know how long we'll have to live here so I thought the best way to let everyone know was through GR. I would like to keep corresponding with everyone, I miss the social contact more than anything, so if you would like to keep writing - please do, my new address is below.

This whole experience, although at times heart-breaking, has taught me a lot. It has shown me how reliant my kids have become on things like their computer, videos, little treats every time you go to the shops etc and how angry they become when all this suddenly disappears. This has, at least, shown us all a simpler, and I think better, way to live. The kids do get bored a lot so if anyone has any suggestions on cheap old fashioned entertainment ideas for kids please let me know. My apologies to all, but the move happened so quickly I didn't have time to organise things properly. My old address was in Romsey, Vic.

Sandi Redman and Family,  
27 O'Grady Drive, PARADISE POINT 4216.

Dear Megg,

I would like to thank all the readers of GR for their recipes they sent me for barbecue sauce. I haven't had time to try any of them as yet. I am a lawn bowler so my time is taken up quite a bit at the moment but I certainly will be using them. Once again many thanks to everybody. It's a great magazine.

Jean Webb,  
3 Hammond St, RINGWOOD 3134.

Hi, To All GRs,

Just wondering if anyone could advise me on where to look for information relating to the **HOUSING CONSTRUCTION METHODS OF VARIOUS CULTURES**. You may know of a publication on bamboo construction, rock, earth, grass, mud, yurts, tipis or anything of the sort. If you have any leads I would much appreciate it.

Thanks to the GR helmsmen for putting out such an info-packed, uplifting and bonding magazine, which is always looked forward to.

Justin O'Donoghue,  
PO Box 166, MUDGEERABA 4213.



Dear GR Readers,

Does anyone know of a cure for this awful disfiguring **ACNEROSEACEA**?

Bill Atkinson,  
19 Camperdown St, COFFS HARBOUR 2450.

Dear Grass Roots,

I would like to congratulate Linda Gillbank on her excellent article on Wildlife Rescue, but I would like to point out that not all **LICENCED WILDLIFE RESCUE GROUPS** are called **WIRES**. Up here on the Far North Coast we are the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers. Therefore I feel the best advice for anyone finding an injured native bird or animal would be to phone the nearest NPWS office (listed in the phone book, NSW Government section) for the name of the group covering their area.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that it is illegal for unlicensed and untrained people to care for native wildlife and offenders will be prosecuted by NPWS. This is very important in the case of orphaned mammals. Possum and macropod joeys need special care, the correct diet and a safe environment for successful release.

All wildlife groups need more volunteers to help care for our native birds and animals. If you are interested in being a carer phone your nearest organisation for information on membership and training days. If you are unable to become involved as an active carer any donations are always welcome. Our wildlife needs your help.

Margaret Weaver,  
'Rosmerrin', Billen Rd, GEORGINA 2480.

Dear Editors,

I feel the need to write and inform you of a recent event. I have been trying to purchase land in the shire of Victoria Plains, north of Toodjay Shire. After a weekend of footwork and research, actually knocking on the farmers' doors, I have discovered some very unethical events taking place.

I was dealing with a well established and well known real estate company and I discovered that they were purchasing land from a local farmer under a **NOMINEE COMPANY**, paying them half of the value of the land, knowing full well that they will be selling the land for two to three times more than they paid for it.

In personally dealing with the real estate company, they actually lied for the means of their own benefit, lies about cost, availability of land, area quality and land utilisation. Once I researched their claims I discovered other real estate agents giving me the opposite answers. Who do you believe?

The moral of my story is: any farmer who intends to sell some of his land, it pays to research, to find the going rate, to phone other agents and talk to the local council. My advice to the land buyer is to research again, find out what the going price is per acre, talk to the local farmers, talk to the shire council and find out if the people representing you are honest to their word. On looking into this is more detail I have discovered there are other estate agents working in this way. There appears to be an expectation about hobby farmers having lots of money and not the financial know-how.

In my eyes it is the land owner and the land purchaser who are being dealt the raw deal, the real estate company has inside information and they seem to be the ones who benefit financially in large amounts. Everything is tied up in nominee companies which tend to collapse and re-emerge, while the finances continue to pass from pocket to pocket.

Who protects the people? Who protects the farmer? Are there laws that prevent such unethical actions? Take care when buying and selling and do not always trust everything you are told.

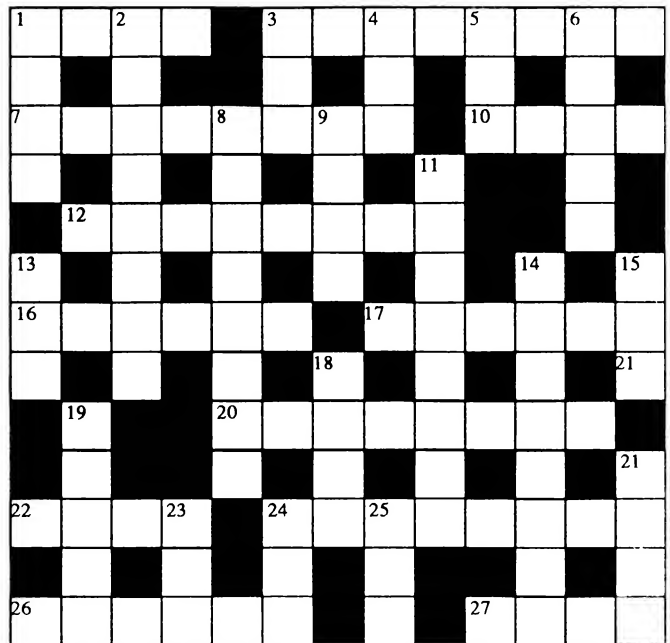
Louise Plant,  
1 Merton St, Victoria Park, PERTH 6100.

# CRYPTIC GRASSWORD

By M. Riley, Tanjil South, Vic.

- Across
1. Sole survivor will (4)
  3. Noted amount used by carpenter (8).
  7. Keeping leg cover for the maiden maybe (8).
  10. Leaves one at a time (4).
  12. To make little man the fall guy (8).
  16. Indicate flag used for this (6).
  17. Found unscratched in ditched vehicle (6).
  20. Aprons worn here beyond meeting place (8).
  22. Iron the black suit (4).
  24. Wishing-well (8).
  26. A rose by another name (8).
  27. Peer must be passionate to look like this (4).

- Down
1. I certainly ambushed a stray (4).
  2. Has little time for the famine (8).
  3. Asking about snowshoe (3).
  4. Used fortresses (3).
  5. Could well be under water (3).
  6. Does it hurt to be well-groomed (5).
  8. Out of pocket raising this creature (8).
  9. Certainly not feeling very well (4).
  11. Establishes audience here (8).
  13. Left after an extinguishing performance (3).
  14. Patronising business (8).
  15. Not even quaint (3).
  18. Cover provided by nature strip (4).
  19. They are light producers in the garden (5).
  21. Couldn't belittle one like him (4).



23. Run without an opponent (3).
24. Tender but not sore (3).
25. Close finish (3).

*Solution on page 66.*

## HERBAL REPELLANT

Put as many of the following herbs in a bottle as you can: basil leaves and flowers, sacred basil leaves, marigold flowers, wormwood leaves, elderflowers and lavender flowers. Add one dessertspoon of eucalyptus oil and half a cup of vinegar for every six cups of flowers and leaves. Leave in a warm place for two weeks, then strain and dab on as needed.

## EARTHWORMS A FULL CIRCLE

The purpose of this book is to show you how worms can improve your soil productivity. If you are a commercial operator, you will see how worms can make dollars for you. If you are interested in landcare, you will see how worms can help improve degraded land, and help solve some of our society's most serious environmental problems. And if you just want to grow healthier, bigger vegetables and plants in your garden, you should also read on...



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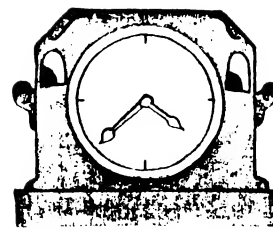
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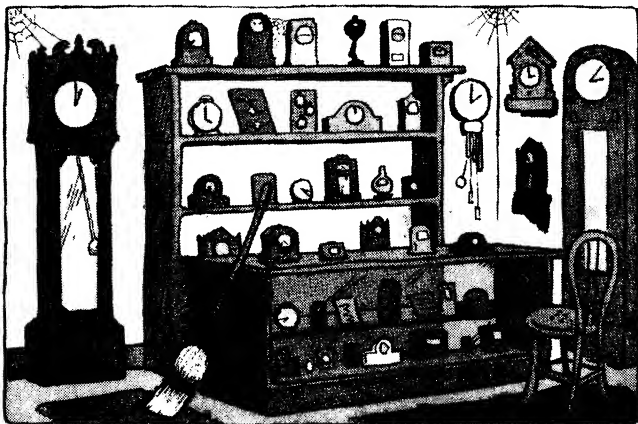
# Kids Pages



## AMAZING FACTS

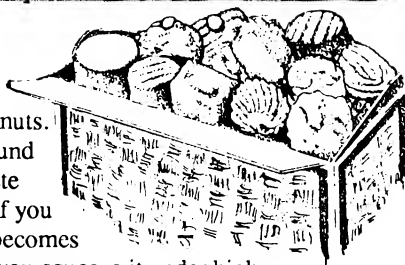
### ABOUT TIME

Clocks are now so accurate that they are more consistent than the spinning of the Earth. Thanks to the friction of the ocean tides and the weather, the Earth is slowing down. About 500 million years ago, the day was 20 hours long, and in about 200 million years it will be about 25 hours long. So that's why, every year or so, the timekeepers have to add an extra second so that the atomic clocks can be adjusted to fit in with the slowing rotation of the earth.



### ABOUT CHOCOLATE

Chocolate begins with cacao beans, which are little bigger than peanuts. They are heated and ground to make a thick dark paste called chocolate liquor. If you let this liquor harden it becomes baking chocolate, but if you squeeze it under high pressure you can extract an amber liquid called cocoa butter. If you add extra cocoa butter and sugar to the chocolate liquor, you've got chocolate. And if you add condensed milk, you'll get milk chocolate.



These and other fascinating facts can be found in *Absolutely Fabulous Moments in Science* by Karl Kruszelnicki.

Q. Why do cats sleep better than dogs in the hot weather?  
A. Because every summer brings the caterpillar.

## BOOK REVIEW

*Absolutely Fabulous Moments in Science*, by Karl Kruszelnicki.

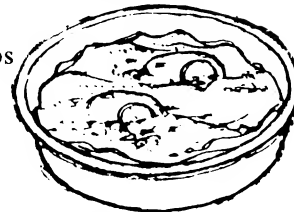
You may be familiar with scientist Karl Kruszelnicki from his daytime television appearances and radio show. I remember his infectious enthusiasm and his ability to make even the most complex scientific issue fascinating and easy to understand. He writes with equal energy and covers a diverse range of subjects. This book would suit a teenager with an interest in science and a wicked sense of humour.

Published by Allen & Unwin, RRP \$16.95.

## COOKERY CORNER

### CORN AND RICOTTA BAKE

- 1 cup wholemeal breadcrumbs
- 2x440 g cans creamed corn
- 1/2 cup grated tasty cheese
- 1/2 kg ricotta cheese
- 5 potatoes
- dash black pepper



Peel and slice the potatoes and cook them in boiling water until they begin to soften, but are not fully cooked. Drain.

Mix together the ricotta cheese, pepper and corn. Spread some of this mixture to cover the bottom of a casserole dish. Cover with a layer of potatoes then more corn and cheese mixture. Continue layering until all the corn and cheese and potatoes are used.

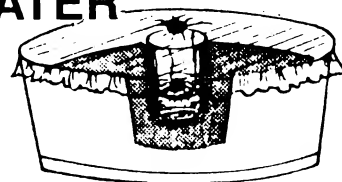
Top with a mixture of grated cheese and breadcrumbs. Bake in an oven on 180°C for 30-40 minutes. Serve with a salad.

Another great recipe from *The Little Pigs Cookbook* by Ross Parks. Distributed by Gemcraft Books, RRP \$14.95.

## SOLAR WATER

### What You Need

- 1 large tub
- 2 small, clean rocks
- cling wrap
- masking tape
- 1 glass (this needs to be shorter than the tub)



### What To Do

Fill the tub to five centimetres deep with muddy water. Set it where the sun will shine on it all day.

Place the glass right-side up in the centre of the tub and place one of the stones inside the glass. This will steady or stabilise the glass.

Cover the tub with the cling wrap, pull it tight and tape onto the tub.

Place the second stone on top of the cling wrap at the centre of the glass.

Observe what happens during the day. Better still, leave it for two to three days.

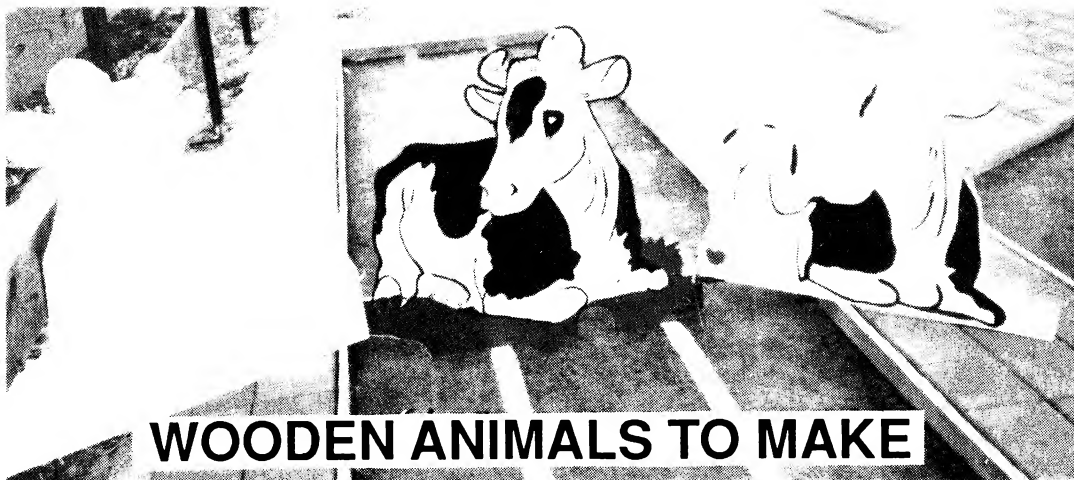
What did you observe? What happened to the water and the mud?

You have made a water purifier. This process is called 'distillation'. Find out what 'distillation' is. What can it be used for?

This is one of many experiments sent to members of the CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club. It aims to show Australia's youth the excitement of science. Write to: Double Helix, PO Box 225, Dickson 2602.







## WOODEN ANIMALS TO MAKE

by Margaret Tacey, Kialla West, Vic.

I have had a lot of fun creating a menagerie of animals to place around my farm amongst the real animals. Visitors enjoy matching the real live animals to their wooden namesakes, and in fact Blossom the wooden Clydesdale horse has such a realistic shape that at first glance we think the real Blossom has escaped her paddock.

Try a simple design first and then, as your painting skills improve, you can try more ambitious projects. Colouring and picture story books are good places for simple animal shapes.

### What You Need

- high density craftwood
- water based sealer and undercoat
- water based acrylic gloss paints (white, black, red, yellow, blue and green)
- paintbrushes in a range of widths and thicknesses of bristles for painting large areas and fine details
- ruler and pencils for drawing up the grid and design
- a jigsaw for cutting out the shape

### What To Do

Enlarge the design to suit the size you want the animal to be. I do this by ruling a one centimetre grid of squares over the picture, then ruling a ten centimetre grid on the craftwood board. I can then copy the shape and markings from the design grid onto the board grid. Of course this makes my animal ten times bigger than the picture; if you want it bigger or smaller, vary the measurement of your grid.

If you like, you can design your own animal directly onto the board.

Next, you will need to cut around the outside of the animal. Only use an electric jigsaw if you are old enough and experienced. If you're not, get help from someone older and leave that job for them.

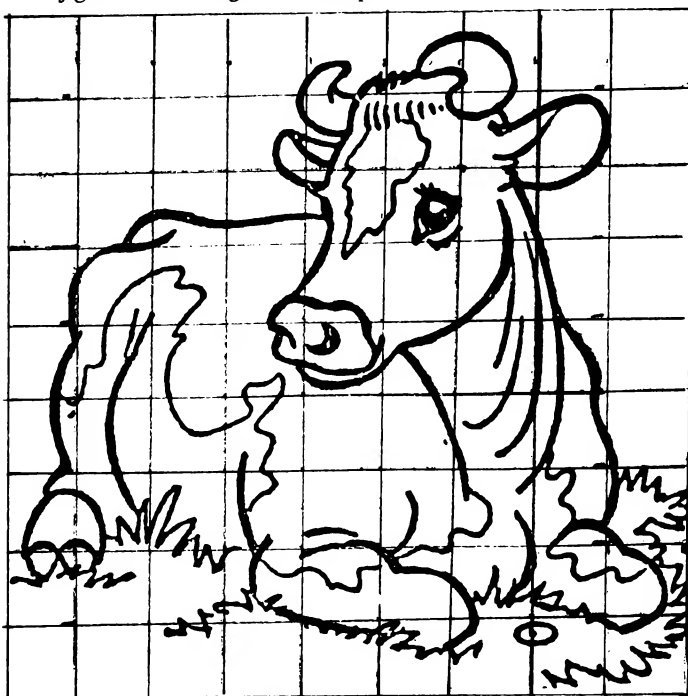
You must now make sure that the surface and edges are sealed thoroughly. If moisture is able to get into the craftwood, it will swell and fall apart. I use an all-in-one sealer and undercoat and only need one coat. Leave it to dry, which should only take about an hour. With the main colour (white for my cow), paint the animal thoroughly with two coats, leaving it to dry between coats. Make sure that the edges (particularly the top, where the rain will hit, and the bottom, where the moisture may rise) are sealed totally.

Now comes the fun part where you can make the character of your animal. Draw or trace the markings on, and using a fine brush and the different coloured paints, colour in the features. Don't forget to wash your brush in water before using a different coloured paint. Blend small amounts of paint together in icecream or yoghurt containers to get different colours. Leave areas of paint to dry before painting further details over.

If you plan to attach your animal to a wall, it is not necessary to paint details on the back (make sure it has been well sealed with the base coat though). If you are going to have your animal standing where you can see the back, paint the other side of the animal (or paint it the same as the front).

When your animal is finished and thoroughly dry it is ready to be attached to a fence or wall, or to stand in the garden or the corner of a room. A clever person might even make brackets or a base out of wood or metal to help it stand without blowing over.

One thing is sure, though: it will never need feeding!



Colouring book picture with 1 cm grid lines ruled on. The design will be drawn onto a 10 cm grid, to make the cow 90 cm x 90 cm.



# While the Billy Boils

Whatever dish you are making its flavour can be enhanced, either subtly or distinctively, by the addition of herbs. Mint in particular, with its fresh, palate-cleansing taste, is a wonderful herb to use generously in summer dishes – from main courses to desserts. Its refreshing tang is especially enjoyable in cold drinks. We hope you enjoy these recipes, most of them flavour-enhanced by herbs. Adjust their quantities to suit your own tastes.

## PASTA WITH HERB SAUCE

- 500g your favourite pasta
- 3 chopped cloves garlic
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup chopped mixed green herbs, such as parsley, marjoram, dill, French sorrel, basil
- ground pepper, to taste
- 1 cup thick cream or yoghurt

Cook pasta in rapidly boiling water till tender. Drain well. In the meantime soften garlic in oil, then add herbs and pepper. Stir cream or yoghurt into mixture, heating gently – do not boil. Pour sauce over pasta. Serve with a green salad.

**Sandy Weller, Newcastle.**

## STUFFED BAKED EGGPLANT

- 4 medium eggplant
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 large ripe tomatoes
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 4 tbsp finely chopped parsley, or basil
- 3 cups fresh bread crumbs
- 50 g grated parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp finely chopped onion
- black pepper to taste

Finely chop tomatoes, parsley or basil and onion. Preheat oven to 200°C. Slice the eggplant in half lengthwise. Scoop out the flesh, being careful not to damage the skin. Chop the flesh into cubes and fry gently in olive oil till soft. Don't allow to brown. Cool and mix with all other ingredients. Fill each eggplant half with the mixture and bake for about 40 minutes in a moderate oven.

**Poppy, Adelaide.**

## ZUCCHINI AND CARROT SLICE

- 375 g grated carrot and zucchini
- 1 large onion
- 3 rashers bacon, or ½ cup almonds
- 1 cup wholemeal self raising flour
- 1 cup grated cheese
- ¼ cup oil
- 5 eggs

Grate zucchini and carrot, chop onion and bacon or almonds. Combine all ingredients, season with pepper and pour

into greased lamington tin. Bake in a moderate oven for 35 minutes or until brown.

**Karen Madigan, Old Bar.**

## TOMATO RELISH

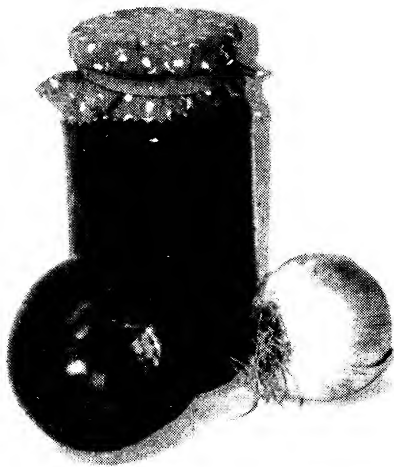
- 3 kg ripe tomatoes (peeled)
- 4 large onions
- handful salt
- vinegar

Cut up tomatoes and onions. Add salt and let stand overnight. Half cover with vinegar and boil until tender. Then add following.

- 1½ tsp mustard powder
- 1 tbsp curry powder
- 500 g sugar
- 5 chillies, chopped
- pinch cayenne
- 2 tbsp plain flour

Boil again until smooth consistency. Bottle and seal while hot.

**Kim Core, Tabulum.**



## HERBED BABY CARROTS

- 1 kg baby carrots
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 tsp caraway seed
- 1 dsp dill leaves
- pinch black pepper

Wash and scrub or scrape carrots. Chop dill leaves. Gently heat oil, honey, caraway, dill and pepper in a large heavy saucepan. Add carrots and stir gently to coat in herb mixture. Cook over low heat, with lid on saucepan for about 15

minutes. Serve hot or cold. If you don't like the strong flavours of caraway and dill, substitute parsley, mint or basil.

**Joy Jansen, Lorne.**

## MINTY SALAD DRESSING

- 1 cup fresh mint leaves
- 300 g cottage cheese or yoghurt
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp honey
- ground pepper, to taste

Chop mint leaves. Place mint and cottage cheese or yoghurt in vitamiser. Blend till smooth. Add rest of ingredients and blend lightly.

**Greg Tessler, Maryborough.**

## WATERMELON AND BERRY SORBET

- ½ a long watermelon
- 2 cups strawberries or raspberries
- 1 cup fruit juice
- 3 tbsp honey
- berries and mint sprigs for garnish
- slosh of sherry, optional

Scoop out watermelon flesh, discarding seeds. Blend watermelon with berries, juice, honey and sherry (if using). Pour mixture into freezer trays, freeze till set. Break up frozen mixture with a fork and return to chilled watermelon shell. Garnish with extra berries and mint sprigs.

**Jo Levitt, Upwey.**

## SPARKLING MINT DRINK

- 1.25 litres sparkling mineral water
- ½ cup chopped fresh mint
- 1 cup lime or lemon juice
- mint sprigs to garnish
- honey, optional

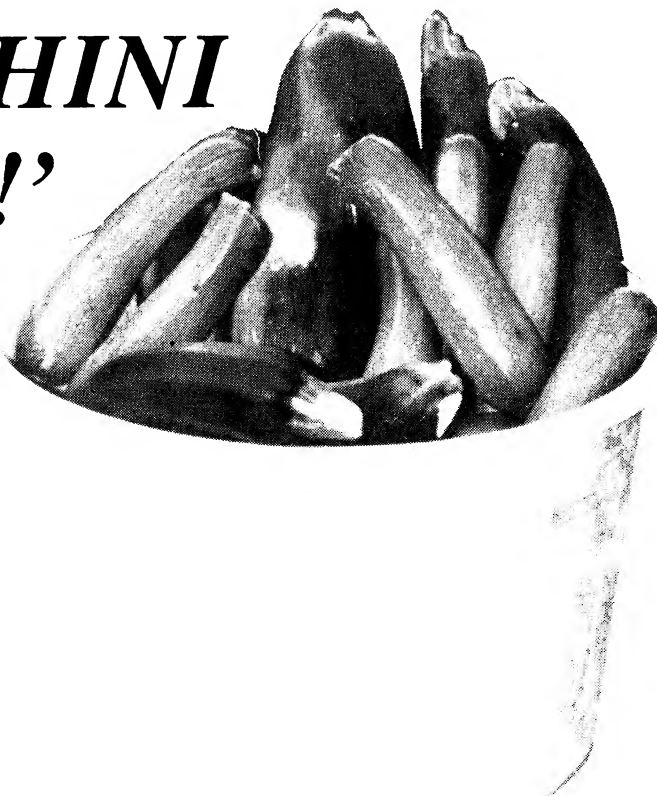
Blend mint and juice in a vitamiser. Pour into a large jug. Add mineral water, stir briskly and serve topped with a sprig of mint in each glass. If your taste is for something slightly sweeter you can add a tablespoon of honey to the mint and juice before vitamising. This is so refreshing on a hot day.

**Mary.**

Most vegetable gardeners will know the problem only too well. You have naively planted too many zucchinis, then foolishly left them unattended for a day or two during their productive period. Oh no! It is satisfying to grow such a generous crop, but! What are you going to do with them all? Share a rueful smile as Anita Day tells her zucchini story.

# ‘NOT ZUCCHINI AGAIN!’

by Anita Day, Beaumaris, Vic.



My first big attempt at growing vegetables was in 1990. After leaving a very small block in old Footscray, we (Paul – husband, Christopher & Thomas our boys) moved to the more peaceful sea-side Beaumaris. Doing so, gave us lots more room for the children to play and to fulfil my dream of a decent vegetable garden complete with chooks.

In the May I planted cauliflower and peas with great success. The plants matured at different rates, consequently there was no glut, but the spring plantings were another story, which, this far after the event, we can all laugh at.

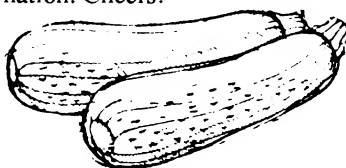
We all worked at the soil over the winter, adding lots of manure and our not-so-successful compost. Annie and Clarabell (the chooks) arrived and the dream was turning into reality. The spring came and I gladly donned my gumboots and began planting for summer, having no idea that it would be so successful.

The garden flourished, especially the cherry tomatoes and, yes – zucchinis. They took over. In the end I feared going into the patch as now and again I would forget to pick one and there would be a huge monster waiting for me. They kept growing. Consequently I racked my brains to invent new recipes to use the varmints: zucchini bread, zucchini slice, zucchini lasagne, the list goes on. They talk about the ‘green revolution’ but we were almost turning shades of green.

Friends stopped calling at the house for fear they would be given a few, well – kilos! The prospect of a cup of tea with a piece of zucchini cake kept them away in droves.

The catastrophe doesn’t end there. Growing enough cherry tomatoes to feed the state presented another culinary problem. The skin is still peeling off my fingers from the last lot of chutney I made. Peeling those little guys, even after dipping in boiling water was no mean feat.

Anyway, the day I made my last pot of zucchini soup it was to the cheers of the little boys. Sadly (I mean gladly), I pulled their mildewy bodies from the ground and laid them to rest. By the way, here is one of many recipes that helped green the nation. Cheers!



## ZUCCHINI RICE PIE

serves six

- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup sliced mushroom
- 1 large zucchini, chopped
- ½ tsp dried oregano leaves
- ½ tsp dried basil leaves
- 30 g butter
- 1½ cups cooked rice
- 5 eggs, beaten
- ⅓ cup milk
- ½ cup parmesan cheese
- cherry tomatoes for serving
- parsley sprigs

In a saucepan saute onion, mushrooms, zucchini, basil and oregano in

butter on medium heat until tender, not brown. Stir in rice, eggs, milk and half the cheese. Turn mixture into a well buttered 23 cm fruit pie plate; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake, uncovered at 180°C until set – 25 to 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Garnish before serving.

See GR 77 for more zucchini recipes.

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## ZUCCHINI TIPS

Zucchini grows well in association with beans, mint, corn, radish and tomatoes. Nasturtiums planted around zucchinis are said to deter aphids.

Zucchini plants are susceptible to powdery mildew and other fungal diseases so plant in a well-drained airy position and avoid overhead watering if possible. A mulch of decomposed seaweed and regular foliar sprays of seaweed emulsion may help. A spray of chamomile tea will also be beneficial.

Two zucchini plants will usually produce more than enough for a family of 4-6 people, so don’t be too enthusiastic in planting.

# RAINBOW ARCHIVES UPDATE

At this point in the progress of the Rainbow Archives, we are inviting women in particular to make a contribution (No, we're not talking money!) to the collection. Women's material will be varied and of great interest. The range of materials is limitless, but let's look at some of the possibilities of things we would like to see in the Rainbow Archives.

An example would be photographs and recollections of the women's demonstrations at nuclear and military stations in central Australia. Perhaps you have song books or tape recordings of songs written at the camps. Do you know anyone who kept a diary and would share the original or a photocopy? Did anyone keep an official log?

The Franklin blockade is another demo in which women played a vital role. We have some fine archives of campsite protocols and culture, but we would love to obtain women's diaries.

Women on community farms. Here is real room for a special collection. Here

is fertile ground for recollection and analysis, because while the ethos of communal life has been progressive and egalitarian, there have always been anomalies in the sex-role differentiation fostered by some of the facts of commune life: isolation, heavy work, lots of babies. Do you have any essays on the problem? Then again, there will be material which has no overt sex-role slant, but which is important to preserve. Your diaries, stories, photos, etc etc, will be valued by the Rainbow Archives and those who refer to them.

Women, arts and crafts. Many artists and artisans have been associated with alternative lifestyles and they have stories to tell. Where are the photos, the articles, the letters?

These are just some examples. You might have Women's Movement materials, and many things that we have not yet imagined. Please contact us.

#### **We're Looking for Posters**

Does any reader have any posters that would be appropriate for the Rainbow

Archives? Perhaps you have stored away some old poster that hasn't seen the light of day for years. We are keen to preserve the wonderfully rich culture of posters from the alternative scene and you could be one to help us a little along the way. Let the conservators look after them for posterity and for today's researchers and art students. Drop us a line.

#### **What Are We Talking About?**

For those who are new to RAIN, we can inform you that the Rainbow Archives is a collection within the Mitchell Library (part of the State Library of NSW), that is preserving materials from Australia's alternative culture: books, magazines, photos, films, videos, audio tapes, diaries, letters, minutes, drawings, ephemera, and so on.

The target areas are alternative lifestyles, peace movement, green movement, hippies, beatniks, bohemian, New Age, antinuclear, organic, permaculture.

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# RIDE ON STRANGER

## PART 3

by Greg Baker, Braidwood, NSW.

I conclude this series on buying new and second-hand ride-on mowers with a discussion of cutting and of mower attachments. The factors to consider for grass cutting with a ride-on mower are width of cut, type of cutting attachment and length at which you can cut the grass.

### WIDTH

All other things being equal, the wider the cut the quicker you can get through the work of mowing. Remembering that the largest self-propelled walk behind mower has a cut of about 53 cm (21") while ride-on mowers start at 71 cm (28") and range up to 152 cm (60").

Manufacturers select one of two basic designs for their cutting decks. One uses up to four short blades attached to a disk. The other uses larger and heavier double-ended blades attached directly to the cutting deck drive shaft. The system that uses smaller, shorter blades much like ordinary motor mower blades attached to a disk, has the advantage that blades are easier and cheaper to replace but, depending on the sort of terrain they are used on, may not last as long. Heavier double-ended steel blades attached direct to the mower deck drive shaft are more expensive to replace but should last longer in service.

With each of these methods, there is a physical limit to the width of cut. Extra width can be obtained over this basic limit by incorporating two or even three disks or single blades mounted side by side. To ensure the blade ends do not meet in operation, but at the same time ensuring no grass is missed in the region between the separate blades, these decks have the blades slightly offset forwards and rearwards. Extra width can give you extra speed in the cutting operation but you should also consider manoeuvrability, engine size and abilities and the range of cutting length.

The cutting deck is a good place to look for wear and for maintenance patterns in second-hand mowers. Check the state of the blades for wear, splitting or bending, the state of their attaching points, and the state of the disk the blades are attached to. A mower that has had a hard life will show it and you should be cautious if the cutting deck and blades ap-



A ride-on mower is a big financial outlay so regular maintenance to prolong its useful life is essential.

pear to have been replaced.

### MANOEUVRABILITY

If you have to negotiate between trees, shrubs and garden beds, you will need a manoeuvrable mower. First consider the mower and cutting deck width. Obviously the narrower the mower the smaller the gap you can fit it through. The steering geometry and the size of the mower's turning circle determine the tightness of the corners the mower can negotiate. The better the turning circle the easier will you be able to follow the contours of garden beds and mow around trees and shrubs without the need for extensive backing and filling.

### ENGINE SIZE AND ABILITIES

Makers design some match between cutting width and engine size by, for example, not making extra wide cutting mowing decks available for low powered engines. Nonetheless, a mowing deck of 122 cm (48") cutting width may be available for engine sizes ranging from twelve horsepower through to twenty horsepower. Check that the mowing deck width you choose can be handled by the engine on the terrain you will be in.

One way to check the sort of combination you think likely to be adequate for

your mowing job is to hire one (or more) ride-on mowers first and try them out under your conditions.

Alternatively, your mower retailer may give the sort of deal one ACT outlet offers. If you have negotiated for a mower with them, agreed on a price but are still unsure whether or not the mower will do the job required of it, the retailer comes out and mows your grass with the selected machine. If it does the job you buy the mower otherwise they take it away. Never in all the time they have been offering this have they failed to match a mower to a job and had to return with a mower to the showroom!

### CUT LENGTH

On all mowers the cut height can be varied. The range is from as low as about 1.3 cm to a high of 7.6 cm, but the exact range varies between mowers and manufacturers. For large areas of rough grass the dimension to watch is how long the mower will cut rather than how short.

The method for adjusting the cutting height is usually a simple mechanical lever which selects one of five or one of eight cutting heights, though some more sophisticated mowers allow an infinitely variable adjustment. This latter is not an

essential feature when considered against the usual step size of less than a centimetre in most mechanical lever adjusters.

### OTHER FEATURES

There is a range of other features which may or may not be useful depending on your requirements. These include padded and sprung seats, attachments, headlights, ease of maintenance and the terms of any warranty.

#### Seats

Check out the seat, particularly if you have any sort of back problems. Padded and sprung seats are fairly standard though the springing quality does vary somewhat. The height of the back support varies too and some mowers have adjustable seats and arm rests. A worn seat will be a good indication of a second-hand mower that has seen plenty of use.

#### Attachments

Attachment possibilities vary between manufacturer and model. At their most basic, mowers come with a simple tow bar for attaching a trailer. At the other end of the range are mowers for which you can buy such accessories as dozer blades, fertiliser spreaders and earth tillers. These latter two devices need some form of power take-off from the engine and you should ensure that the engine size is sufficient to handle your expected work load.

Grass catchers are optional extras for some mowers. The power limitations of most affordable ride-on mowers mean that these catchers cannot be expected to catch long grass cut to a really short state, or wet grass, and do it adequately. Both these jobs need a fan-assisted catcher attached to a big-engined mower and for these mowers the price is looking like a five figure sum for a new mower.

If you choose a catcher for cutting dry grass to a length of say four to five centimetres, remember that the larger the catcher the less often you will have to empty it. Again, the state of the catcher will be a good sign of the amount of work a second-hand mower has been subjected to.

Headlights are useful if you think you may be operating after dark. Remember though that most mowing is done in summer when the length of daylight should be adequate for most tasks around the farm to take place in the light.

Maintenance ease is important too. You need to be able to easily get at the engine to check spark plugs, air cleaner and sump oil level and to be able to easily drain the sump during oil changes. It should be easy to check the battery elec-

trolyte level and you should make sure that any grease nipples are standard size and accessible. Similarly, you should check that it is easy to work on the mower deck drive to replace the belt if it jumps off the pulleys or wears out.

#### Warranties

Warranties on new mowers vary between manufacturers and depend on whether the mower is for commercial or private use. Private warranties vary a little but are most often one year on the mower itself, two years on the engine and five years on the engine's ignition system. It would pay to find out warranty details for any mower you are considering. Warranties on second-hand mowers will depend on the retailer but will inevitably be less than on a new mower.

### MASS AND DIMENSIONS

The final point to consider when you make your purchase is how you are going to transport the mower home. In some cases delivery may be able to be arranged, but if you will be moving it yourself you will need to take note of the mower's mass and overall dimensions.

Mower masses range upwards from about 200 kilograms to 450 or 500 kilograms depending on your choice. Whether you can run the mower into your ute or four-wheel drive or you need a trailer, not only depends on this mass but also on the mower's length, width and height.

Widths range from about 79 cm (31") to about 122 cm (48"), lengths from about 152 cm (60") to 183 cm (72"), and heights from about 97 cm (38") to 108 cm (42"). Of these dimensions height and length will be the most restricting in a four-

wheel drive vehicle or ute with an enclosed cargo area.

Taking note of all these dimensions before you collect the mower and making appropriate arrangements will avoid frustration and delay on what should otherwise be an exciting day: picking up your ride-on.

### MOWER SELECTION CHECKLIST

If you try to be systematic in your search you will find out precisely what is being offered by each mower in your price range and by each retail outlet. If you use this simple checklist you will be able to sit down and compare mowers with your requirements and make a leisurely and rational decision.

- Make, model:
- Retailer:
- Price:
- Engine power:
- Number of cylinders:
- Rear or front mounted:
- Exhaust position:
- Starting method:
- Fuel tank size:
- Wheel drive type:
- Number of forward gears:
- Belt drive tension method:
- Cutting height adjustment method:
- Cutting width:
- Disk or bar cutter blades:
- Catcher:
- Wheel size:
- Tyre size:
- Headlights:
- Maintenance ease:
- Warranty:
- Oil pressure warning:
- Fuel gauge:
- Ammeter:
- Hourmeter:

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# ANYONE FOR A PLANTER'S JUMBO?

by Joanne Uphill, Dungog, NSW.

What, may you ask is a Planter's Jumbo? Is it some kind of rare elephant, or perhaps a new kind of drink? Well actually it is a special type of rockmelon or, as they say in The States, a cantaloupe.

Last year we bought 50 acres of black fertile plains on the banks of the Guningalra Creek which runs into the mighty Macquarie River. My husband came up with the unusual and innovative idea of growing rockmelons by flood irrigation and flying them, nicely wrapped of course, to Korea in time for Christmas. He had heard on the vine that Koreans were prepared to pay up to \$10 for a big fat juicy rockmelon, so we thought, why not give it a go?

I wrote away to a seed company called New World Seeds Proprietary Limited, telling them that I wanted to try rockmelon growing and they suggested that Planter's Jumbo would be ideal for starting early in the season. They said that this variety was the main open-pollinated line grown in Australia at that particular time.

New World also enclosed heaps of information on plant nutrition, diseases and prices for 17 different types of rockmelons. Some bearing the romantic names of Casaba Golden Beauty, Honey-moon, Snow Charm, Caravelle and even Slippery Sam.

As it so happened a close friend with an agricultural degree had just resigned from the local stock and station agents, and, rather than having to rely on the government for support, he decided to go into business with us growing rockmelons.

Since we had lots of lovely clean creek water and an irrigation licence, we thought that we'd try irrigating an acre to begin with and if that was successful then we'd try perhaps five acres next time. Little did we know what we were letting ourselves in for.

Our very rusty old Oliver tractor was then fitted with hydraulic linkage arms to which we attached a most unique bed-former which had been fabricated from RHS flat steel plate and modified ripper tynes to form up long beds with furrows in between which the water would run down.

After we'd planted our seeds, carefully spacing them along the top of each furrow at about every two metres, we



Joanne with the first baby melons beginning to develop.

discovered that when we siphoned the water down the channels, the beds were too high and our little Jumbos would have no chance of a sip let alone a good long drink.

So we persuaded our three reluctant children to fill and drop sand bags in strategic positions down the rows to build up the water level so that the plants would send down good strong roots. This system worked very well although we had to use a lot of water.

When the seeds were planted, they had already been dusted with a proprietary fungicide and, as I mentioned above, we planted them about two metres apart, scraping a bit of a depression in the soil with a hoe, dropping in about six, and then covering them over again.

It was around a week later that we started to notice little green leaves appearing along the top of the banks. We

didn't worry about fertiliser as it was rich virgin soil and the bees took care of the pollination when the flowers started to appear. When the vines began to grow to a metre in length we would run them along the tops of the banks as they had to stay clear of the water running in the furrows.

The irrigating was fun to watch at the beginning when all the banks were full to the brim with water and we would jump from one bank to the other checking to see whether the bags were holding. Usually we would pump the water through once a week, unless it was particularly hot and windy when it would have to be done more often. We were blessed with warm days and it all began to be worthwhile when the first small green melons started to appear.

Not only did the melons appear, but so did the weeds. Millions and millions

of them. We tried chipping them but were unable to keep up with their prolific growth, so we threw out all our ideas of organic growing and used Roundup instead. This worked very well but we had to be careful not to spray the rockies at the same time.

We realised after we'd started irrigating from the creek that all the water we pumped through carried millions of weed seeds. Drip irrigation would have been much better, as control of weeds by fitting a filter to the dripper system would be a much more efficient method. Hoeing weeds by hand is a much better alternative to Roundup. Also it was interesting that the pumpkin beetles ate out any paddymelon seedlings that came up! Maybe we should be encouraging this.

We also had a few uninvited visitors in the form of red-bellied black snakes, copperheads and king browns. Often we would hear a loud rustling amongst the weeds which at least gave us a bit of a warning. All the same we used to watch where we walked when the weeds were high.

It was almost three months from the time that we had sown the seeds, that our little Jumbos were ready for harvest. I'll always remember the very first one that we tried out. My friend had a pen knife in his pocket and he said, 'Come on let's have a break and see what this one tastes like'.

The melon would have weighed about one kilogram which is fairly average in size but the taste was absolutely superb. We sat down in the middle of the paddock with the snakes and the weeds and ate every bit of it.

The New World Seeds people told us that the fruit would grow to an average size of 16.5 x 14 cm, with a fine shallow net and deep orange flesh. We found to our delight that we were picking Jumbos almost twice this size and they were so sweet and juicy that it still makes my mouth water just remembering the taste of them.

In fact I found it very hard to go back to buying rockies from the shops. Even if you only want to grow four to six plants for your own family, it is worth it just for the taste. The soil has to be warm enough

for germination (20 degrees) and prepared with well rotted organic matter or compost.

If you don't have enough space for a three metre vine, you can always grow them on a trellis like they do in New Zealand. When the fruit is ready to be picked it should only need to be twisted slightly for it to come off the vine, otherwise it isn't ready to leave home.

In case you might be wondering whether we did fly our rockies to Korea; well the growing took a little longer than we expected and Christmas sort of came and went, so Korea will just have to wait for a while. As for our experiment with irrigation, if we ever try growing melons again, we will probably use a trickle system as some of the plants developed mildew and they really prefer their roots wet instead.

A big thank you to New World Seeds for being so helpful. Their address is PO Box 18, Dural 2158. We will always remember those golden days of Jumbo picking. Maybe next time we'll go in for Sugar Babies or Golden Honeys instead.

*Living is strife and torment, disappointment and love and sacrifice, golden sunsets and black storms. I take a simple view of living. It is keep your eyes open and get on with it.*

LAURENCE OLIVIER

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# WELDING

## A LITTLE DAB'LL DO YA

by Kel Connell, East Gosford, NSW.

I shall try to cover all relevant points of welding that may apply to your situation. The size of a component to be welded is very relevant, also its thickness. The system of analysis for selecting the method of welding is as follows:

- Size and thickness of metal to be welded.
- Can it be dismantled?
- What work does it do?
- What type of metal is it?
- Does it require a soft ductile weld or a hard wearing one?
- Will it require heat treatment, such as cast iron?
- Will it be subjected to heat, wear or vibration?

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR WELDING

#### Size and Thickness

A metal's size and thickness will determine if it can be welded with oxyacetylene gas or electric arc.

#### Can It Be Dismantled?

If it can be dismantled it can be handled more easily. If it's a structural part of the machine it may need support during welding so it doesn't sag out of line because of heat and weight.

#### What Job Does It Do?

This will decide if it requires hard facing (soft ductile welds stand shock better).

#### What Type of Metal Is It?

Cast iron will require special cast iron electrodes, also slow cooling after welding and heating before welding.

#### Type of Weld

Chassies and frames require ductile welds which will give under stress so the metal is less likely to crack. Parts subject to friction may require harder weld to resist wear.

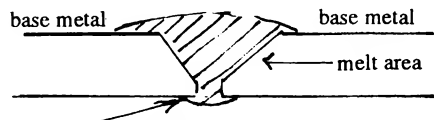
#### Heat Treatment?

Metals that are high in carbon content such as cutting edges and parts subject to friction may require heating before welding and slow cooling after. Heat must be kept in the job with a furnace, forge or oxyacetylene flame, letting the job stay in the forge until cold. Rapid cooling can cause cracks.

#### Heat and Vibration

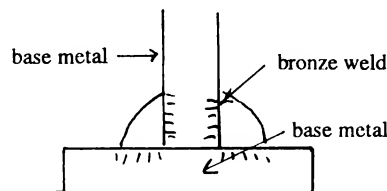
If the weld is subject to heat or vibration it will surely need to be fusion welded. Fusion welds are all welds where the metal being welded is actually melted.

If the weld is not subject to high

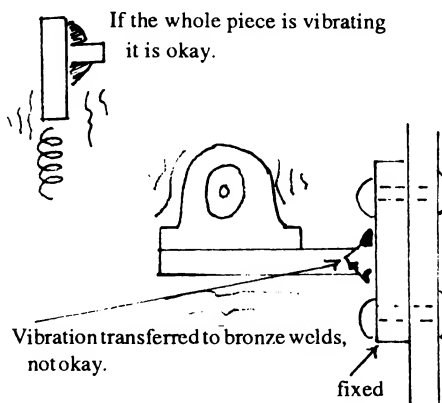


temperatures above 300°C, or vibration, then it could be repaired with oxyacetylene bronze welding or brazing. The base metal is not melted, but heated until red hot with oxyacetylene flame using flux. The bronze weld rod is melted into the join (both sides). The heated base metal expands which allows the lower melting point bronze to flow down into the grain boundaries, like roots which get a good hold. This can be a strong repair if the weld is made larger than normal so it has more roots. If the weld is subject to temperatures over 300°C it may not melt but the extra heat affects the composition of the weld.

temperatures above 300°C, or vibration, then it could be repaired with oxyacetylene bronze welding or brazing. The base metal is not melted, but heated until red hot with oxyacetylene flame using flux. The bronze weld rod is melted into the join (both sides). The heated base metal expands which allows the lower melting point bronze to flow down into the grain boundaries, like roots which get a good hold. This can be a strong repair if the weld is made larger than normal so it has more roots. If the weld is subject to temperatures over 300°C it may not melt but the extra heat affects the composition of the weld.



If the bronze weld is subject to vibration, what happens is, all the little roots snap off which causes the welds to fail. Because this type of repair is easier to do and requires less heat it is popular with some mechanics. It's no good at all on manifolds or exhaust systems and useless for stub axles etc.



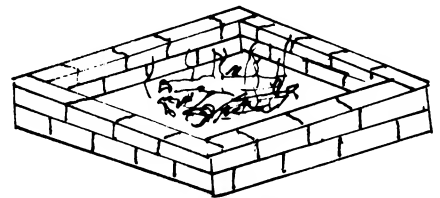
### WELD QUALITY

The quality of a weld is determined by:

- correct assessment of requirements,
- equipment available,
- ability of the welder (operator).

I have seen 30 millimetre thick steel welded with oxyacetylene gas – how? By using vertical up welding with a big tip and two operators, one man each side both welding. The oxyacetylene gas welding requires a technique which prevents heat loss as the flame temperature is only half that of the electric arc.

Once I welded a cast steel gearbox with the oxyacetylene flame. I built a fireplace like this sketch, got the fire going with logs then when the fire died down I placed the gearbox in the centre of the hot coals and put sheets of tin around the job. The tin sheets kept cold winds off the job and also kept heat from burning me while I did the repair. It was hot but I managed it.



Brick fireplace used for welding a gearbox.

### ELECTRIC WELDERS

Be careful of ambitious salesmen. I enquired and was given brochures advertising machines with outputs up to 600 amps. This is okay for big companies, but overkill for a farmer. That sort of machine would tie up too much money unless used fully 40 hours per week. The money would be better earning interest in a bank.

I have a little 240 volt welder with maximum output of 130 amps which will use a 2.2 millimetre electrode welding rod. It would require a 5½ to 6 KVA generator. It can do anything the big machines can do, except it takes a little longer, and it only cost me \$160 second-hand.

Before considering hard surfacing rods (electrodes), make sure they suit your machine. Some hard surface electrodes are used on DC power only.

A DC welder will use any electrode,

AC or DC. An AC welder will not use DC electrodes.

## BITS AND PIECES

There is just so much to tell you! I once saw a weld machine running off a six cylinder vanguard car engine. There was room under the hood for the welder machine generated by an extra size fan belt.

Alas about tractor PTOs. I don't know. The guy in the CIG shop says maybe, but he would have to check out the tractor before he committed himself.

The twelve volt car battery welding machines are toys – don't waste your money. They give off a feeble arc, suitable for spot welding sheet metal only—your oxyacetylene gas weld gear could do better.

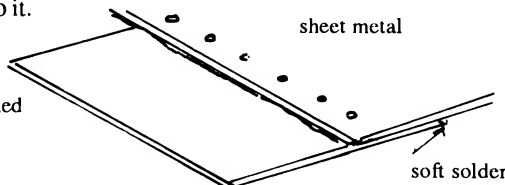
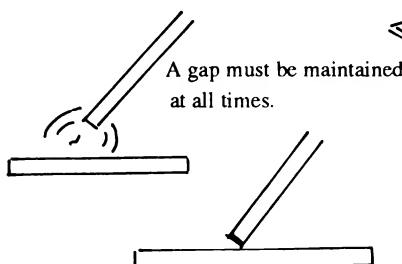
Remember energy cannot be created. It can only be converted from one energy type to another, such as electricity to heat and vice-versa. It's a bit like a sewer, you can only get out of it, what you put into it.

Normally, the electric arc takes 32 volts to spark then drops to 23 volts to continue welding. A gap must be maintained at all times, this causes a short circuit arc 600°C. This gap is approximately 30 millimetres, so as electrode melts it must be fed down at melt speed. If electrode is touching base metal (touch welding) flux gases are blown into the weld metal causing gas porosity which will weaken weld. Perhaps it should be called short circuit welding.

## HEAT JOINING SYSTEMS

### Low Temperature Inter-Atomic-Penetration Join

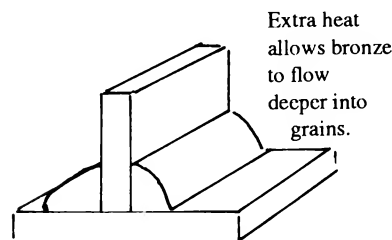
The heat source used is a soldering iron, LPG or oxyacetylene. Solder penetrates surface atoms only due to low heat. If subject to vibration, riveting is recommended as well to prevent solder joint separating.



### Brazing, Inter-Granular Penetration Weld

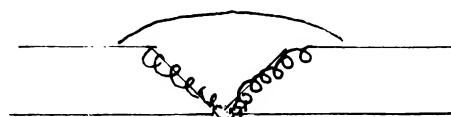
The heat source is LPG or oxyacetylene

gas. Using temperatures 500°C plus the extra heat allows bronze to flow deeper into the grains. Weld speed should be slow enough to conserve heat and also allow time for bronze to penetrate into grain boundaries. Not recommended for applications where the weld temperature will rise above 300°C, or where the weld is subject to vibration.



### Fusion Weld

The heat source is electric arc or oxyacetylene gas. Weld metal is fused (melted) to base metals. The strongest and toughest weld if done properly. Weld = strength of base metals.



Weld metal is fused to base metal.

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# LIFE SAVING WATER!!

by June Birkett, Coopers Creek, NSW.

Water is precious and should never be wasted. If you live in the country and are short of water, how can you make it go further? What are some water saving ideas? Can water be used more than once? What types of ground water are there? Do windmills really work?

Yes there are certainly many ways of using water. Water represents life for all living creatures and none can survive very long without it, mainly because the body (or plant structure) itself is made up of fluids and if dehydration takes place death results very quickly.

## WATER SAVING WAYS

Only half-fill a kitchen sink when washing up. Never leave taps running, when cleaning teeth place some water in a cup and clean teeth this way. Get a water-saver shower head. If bathing young children, put two or three in the same bath. Use spring-loaded taps for vanity units or garden use, then children cannot turn them on and waste water. Check outside taps every few days to ensure they are turned off properly. To water pot plants, put a nail hole in a medium tin and place tin in a pot plant and fill with water, leaking water will seep out for up to two days.

## RE-USE WATER

Always re-use bath or washing water to water gardens, vegetable patches, pot plants. Fruit trees thrive better when watered with washing water than they do with ordinary tap water, as do strawberries. Take care not to get soapy water on leaves of food plants and try to alternate waterings with clean water. You can wash dishes, hands, or vegetables in a bowl within the normal sink or basin and this can be emptied onto garden beds in rotation to ensure that there is not too great a buildup of soap in one area.

Water from the bathroom and laundry can be intercepted at the outlet pipe, so it can be diverted to the garden via pipes or hoses, or can be allowed to enter the sillage tank and pumped or siphoned from there.

Limit showers, wash hair when showering, also clean shower while showering to save water. Clean the rest of the bathroom with leftover bath water. Also clean windows, refill car window wipers and wash car from re-useable water. Soak dirty clothes and then sandshoes or other



Children can have a lot of fun in just a bucket of water which is later used on the garden.

very soiled items from the same water source. Floors and flyscreens can also be washed with excess water.

Water left over from baths can fill children's swimming pools or wash down concrete paths, steps or patios.

Remember leftover water is valuable, do not just let it go out the plug hole as it may save the life of some living thing.

## SPEARPOINTS OR WINDMILLS

If you have a large acreage you can dig for a spearpoint to underground water or for bore water. Australia does have a lot of ground water supply but you need someone who knows what they are doing. We have a windmill and it never runs out of water for cattle or birds. Remember the windmill needs space around it to operate freely, closed in by trees or growth the air cannot get to the sails easily and turn them, so keep the

area around it cleared. Also check and maintain it once or twice in a month, fix potential problems before they become real problems.

## TEACH RESPECT FOR SAVING WATER

Teach children from a very young age to respect water and never waste it. Early training will stay a lifetime with a child. Do not leave hoses attached to taps as young children love to play with water. Give them their own source of water in a small pool or tub. When it is dirty they are never too young to learn to bucket it on to the garden *Always supervise young children when they are around any water.*

## WATER STORAGE

Australia is always a country of drought and sooner or later dams are needed. You need an expert to build a dam that will not break or leak and, as it is very costly, it needs to be done once only. Build a dam on a run-off slope; a series of step dams are very beneficial if the slope is steep enough.

Install a water tank for outside or inside use at your home.

## GARDENS

If you live in a dry area inland and you want gardens it is better to plant trees and shrubs more suited to the drier climate and Australian conditions, look at what naturally grows around you. Also talk to people who have lived in the area for some time to find out what plants they suggest as plants recommended by gardening experts might not necessarily suit your circumstances.

Always mulch your garden as thickly as you can with whatever materials you have available. (See article on mulch in GR 106.)

Drippers and microsprays are much more water-wise than overhead sprinklers which waste water by evaporation, wind drift, or overspray onto footpaths.

If you do sprinkle make sure you do so in the mornings or evenings when the weather is fairly still, and do ensure that water is only going where it is needed.

## ANIMALS

Never go away and leave animals without access to water. A proper watering system can be put into fowl pens. Pigs or cattle can have a concrete or plastic watering tank with a self-adjusting ball and

cock system, so that when they drink from the troughs they trigger the depth of water to replace it. Always regularly check animal watering systems; this is a requirement of the RSPCA.

Please remember bird life, place some clean water in an old can or saucepan and leave it in the garden in a shady spot. Birds are dying in their hundreds from lack of water in the country and will gladly come to water anywhere.

*We began to search through our indexes for references to previous articles on water and water-related topics to complement this article and Tony Zamit's article on water bores. We were astonished at how the list kept growing and relevant subsections also wanted to jump out and be noticed. In the end the desk and floor were covered in annotated pieces of paper – far too much information to be accommodated by a footnote. In consequence we have compiled a separate sheet as an index to water-related topics covered in previous GRs. To obtain this useful resource send an SAE containing three stamps to: Water Index, Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.*

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# DIRTY FEET

by Shirley Scaysbrook, Kundabung, NSW.

Feet are dirty in the country. Feet that have always been neatly shod and walked only on clean floors and mown lawns suddenly find themselves exposed to all kinds of hazards. Stuffed into sweaty gumboots, rushed out bare in the middle of the night to move animals out of the rain, squelching mud for mud bricks, squashing snails in the garden – I'm surprised feet put up with it. Winter is bad enough with the aforementioned gumboots – one of the laws of life is that the puddle is always one inch deeper than the gumboot – sweaty gym shoes and ugg boots that by the end of the season really do justify the sound of their name. Feet are often soggy, frequently cold and not always nice to be near.

Summer is the season of sandals, thongs and bare feet. Feet carefully washed in the morning are grubby two hours later and filthy by night time. I often go barefoot. This is because both my children and my dog suffer from a shoe fetish. I am constantly confronted at the back door by one sandal and by the time I find the other my feet are too dirty to put them on. Therefore



any trip to town is usually preceded by vigorous foot washing. Before the birth of my last baby I spent some hours scrubbing the soles of my feet with a nailbrush and Ajax. However, sometimes in the midst of changing kids, tying up the dog, collecting bags, locking up and finding keys, the feet are forgotten. Visualise me, attending a meeting, nicely dressed, wearing makeup and good sandals, crossing my legs and discovering undoubtedly grubby toes. Instant deflation. Oh, well. I do find myself surreptitiously inspecting other people's feet. If they are just a bit grubby – the kind of grubby that comes of rushing back to catch an errant goat, hopping out of the car at nine gates, last minute trips to the outhouse, and remembering to check the chooks' water before leaving – then I know they're one of us.

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# A VEGIE PATCH FROM SCRATCH

by Mary Horsfall, Longwood East, Vic.

So many people write in saying that they would like to 'be more self sufficient but don't know where to start', that we have decided to include a back-to-basics series on vegie growing. While this might seem old hat to some readers we're sure, from the amount of requests we receive, it will be of benefit to many.

This time I will describe how to get started from scratch. There are many different ways to start, but I'm going to describe the easiest way I know. This method takes a little time to set up, but is much less work in the long term. I encourage everyone new to vegetable gardening to bear the following basic principles in mind.

## MARY'S BASIC PRINCIPLES

I know what I'm talking about here: I started off by doing all the opposites.

### Start Small

Obviously the size of your vegetable patch will be determined by many factors, including availability of space, water, materials and time and the size of your family. The size of my no-dig vegie beds for example (approximately 2.5 metres square) was largely determined by the materials I had on hand for edging them and the coverage of the sprinkler I intended to use.

In your enthusiasm you might want to cover the whole backyard with vegetables. While this may possibly occur over time, if you try to do it all at once you are likely to bite off more than you can chew and either work yourself to exhaustion or give up in despair. I've seen many neglected, weed infested vegie gardens as a result of initial enthusiasm petering out under the weight of the work involved in maintaining them.

### Don't Dig

Digging wrecks the soil structure, provides a lovely bare area for all the neighbourhood weeds to multiply in, breaks your back, and is nearly always unnecessary. When I made the change from digging up large areas to building up smaller, controllable, no-dig beds the feeling of relief was overwhelming. Now, I can't imagine how I had the time or the strength for all that digging.

### Grow Only What Everyone Likes

It is very frustrating to spend time and

resources (especially if space is limited) growing something, only to find that some member of the family refuses to eat it. If they don't like zucchinis – don't bother with them (at first anyway). Although the fresh, home-grown variety is always much tastier than the bought one, everyone will still have their likes, dislikes, and taste prejudices. Don't think you will magically overcome a dislike because a vegetable is home-grown; you might in time, but initially it is more rewarding for the gardener to grow vegetables that everyone will enjoy eating.

### Down To Work

Slow down! Don't race out right now and buy seeds and seedlings. You have some work to do first. It isn't hard work, but it will take some time.

Decide where your bed will be. A northerly aspect is best, with no structures (fences, sheds etc) to cast shade on the vegetables till late afternoon. However, if this is not possible just try to choose a sunny area, clear of overhanging trees and invasive root systems. It's also a good idea to keep it away from children's favourite play areas.

Before beginning work collect and as-

semble a pile of newspapers and/or cardboard, your edging material and some leafy prunings.

Now, on a still day, brush-cut or closely mow the area. Don't remove the clippings, let them lie there to decompose. Cover the area thickly with newspaper or cardboard (avoid using any with coloured dyes) 6-10 sheets of newspaper should do. Overlap them to prevent weeds from growing through.

Put your edging around the perimeter. I use logs, but whatever you have available or can easily obtain will do just as well. The edging should be at least 15 cm high, higher is better but not essential. Make sure the newspaper or cardboard is tucked well under the edging to prevent weed growth from outside the bed.

Begin to build up a heap of organic matter inside the edging. Small twigs and leafy branches from autumn pruning are good to start with. Some organic gardening writers will recommend layers of specific materials. While this may conform to some ideal, it seldom conforms to reality. I have always used whatever materials I had available at the time. These have included spoilt hay, cow, horse and poultry manure, garden wastes, leaf mould from beneath trees (wattles are good), autumn leaves from deciduous trees (never burn them), wool dags, wood ash from the fire, and sprinklings of garden lime or dolomite from time to time as the pile builds up.



Cherry tomatoes and nonhearting lettuce growing in styrene boxes against a north-facing stone wall. This method also helps keep slugs and snails at bay.

If you live in the suburbs and have limited materials available, you'll be surprised what you can find by asking around. Supermarkets and fruit shops usually have waste they are happy to give away. Hairdressers will save their sweepings for you. A mowing service may be happy to drop off grass clippings. Riding stables are a good source of both soiled straw bedding and manure. Look around your area – one person's waste is another's vegetable garden. Keep the accumulating pile damp.

You might decide to buy some products which you are unable to obtain any other way. If you do, make sure what you buy is labelled 'organic'. I've used Dynamic Lifter and decomposed seaweed mulch occasionally and been pleased with both.

When the pile of materials is at least twice the depth of the edging (it will reduce as it decomposes), cover the lot with straw, grass clippings or old hay, mainly for aesthetic reasons, and leave it to decompose. The addition of earthworms will help matters along, so if your garden is not well endowed with these tireless diggers/aerators/fertilisers it is a good idea to buy some. Don't know where from? Look in the Grassifieds.

Weeds may grow in the bed, especially if you have used old hay or garden weeds gone to seed. Don't worry. Cover the lot with more layers of newspaper and sprinkle just enough hay or straw over it to prevent it from blowing around.

#### **WHAT NOW?**

All this will take some time, especially if you have had to search for and collect the materials. It will take a while longer now before the bed is ready to plant anything in, so be patient. There are other tasks to do in the meantime.

#### **COMPOST**

There is no time like the present to begin making compost with which to topdress and fertilise your vegies as they grow. Once again, if you read gardening books or columns, or watch gardening programmes on TV you will know that there is a recommended way of making compost. You should build up layers of material (in the manner of a layer cake), have the correct carbon/nitrogen ratio, and turn the heap often to ensure even decomposition.

There is no doubt this works fairly quickly to produce good compost. But I find two major problems with it. The first is that materials don't normally accumulate in the recommended 'layers'

quantities, particularly when I am using everything I can acquire to build up a new no-dig bed. The second is that turning the heap is hard work, not good at all for backs, knees or arms and I simply don't have the strength for it any more.

Suburban or town dwellers will find it neater and more socially acceptable to make compost in enclosed bins, of which there are many commercially available. They range from expensive rotating models to simple covered plastic bins. The December '94 *Choice* magazine had a comprehensive article about compost and compared the various bins available. Many shire councils have a simple model available at a reasonable price (\$20 – \$25). You will need at least two, one in the process of being filled and one 'cooking', with a separate pile for completed compost in use – this won't be around long, you can never have enough. More rustically inclined gardeners can easily construct a series of side-by-side wooden containers from fence palings or any re-used timber.

Make sure your heap is in contact with the ground to allow drainage and access to worms which, along with beneficial soil micro-organisms, will do all the hard work for you given half a chance.

I add all kitchen scraps such as vegetable peelings, tea bags, coffee grounds, as well as garden waste, grass clippings (sometimes these are also good left alone to feed and mulch your lawn), animal manures, wood ash, just whenever I have them. A sprinkling of lime from time to time counteracts acidity and makes a friendlier environment for the worms.

If you have access to waste from nearby farms or food manufacturing plants you might like to enquire about possible chemical contamination. Any pesticide residues are likely to affect your food (The worms won't like it much either.), and isn't the main reason for growing your own to avoid just that?

Keep your pile moist but not too wet. For exposed heaps this will mean frequent sprinkling in hot weather, but enclosed bins will need only a little water added. The smaller the pieces the faster they will decompose, so tear, break or shred large pieces before adding them to the pile.

When your bin is full, or your heap about a cubic metre in size, it is left to decompose. An exposed heap can be covered with old bags, carpet underfelt, or a thin layer of straw or hay to keep it

moist and dark. Remember to keep it lightly watered throughout the decomposition period. This provides an environment to keep your working worms happy and productive.

If you don't have masses of worms in your garden, acquire some and let them loose in the soon-to-be-compost. They will turn it into rich worm castings, at the same time digging and aerating it for you. It's even better to add worms while the heap is being built up, so they'll be working on it even as you are adding more material.

It will take longer to make compost in this way than in the 'correct' way (about six months, depending on weather and worm activity), but it's a lot easier on the human body. Once the compost is ready you'll have a wonderful free fertiliser for your vegetables, with maybe even some left over for the rest of the garden. It will also be full of worm eggs which will then spread and multiply.

#### **IN A HURRY?**

'But all this is going to take too long. I want to plant something now!' I hear some of you cry. Don't despair. I have some suggestions for the impatient ones. Acquire a couple of polystyrene boxes, fill them with good garden soil or high quality potting mix. Buy a couple of advanced tomato plants, some parsley and a punnet of mixed non-hearting lettuce. Plant one tomato and a few lettuce and parsley plants in each. Keep in a sunny spot near the house, against a north-facing wall is a good spot. Remember to water daily and sprinkle with Dynamic Lifter every few weeks. Good luck. Last year I kept lettuce going all winter this way; this year I'm trying to do the same with cherry tomatoes as well.

Another suggestion is to remove some flowers from existing garden beds and replace them with beans, beetroot, broccoli and shallots. Buy them as seedlings in punnets as this is easier and quicker than growing from seed. Before planting them in the garden harden them off by leaving them out in the sun for progressively longer periods each day for a week. Remember to water them – those punnets dry out very quickly.

Next time I'll tell you how to actually plant something in the no-dig bed.

#### **Further Reading**

Previous issues of GR containing articles about compost are: 103, 100, 93, 90, 89, 87 and 84. No-dig gardening articles are in GRs 82, 90 and 93.

# WOOD STOVES

## A FAMILY TRADITION

by Ross Daniel, Maryborough, Qld.



As a child I have great memories of sitting in front of an open firebox door, watching the fire, carving animals out of scrap timber and throwing the offcuts into the fire. I am sure many people have great memories of an old wood stove on a cold winter night. We had the advantage of two stoves in our kitchen.

One of them being an old cast iron stove for heating in winter and the other a slow combustion stove used during the hot Queensland summers for our hot water and cooking. It was only when my father was in his eighties that the stoves were removed from the house. But I suppose we had an advantage as far as

stoves go, as my father and his two brothers inherited the Scotia Stove Foundry in Maryborough, Queensland, from my grandfather who established it in 1902. The same stoves, with slight modification, were made right up until the foundry closed in 1982.

With its closure not only a family tradition came to a close, but a national tradition, as the Scotia was the last stove foundry operating in Australia. In the early eighties, especially in tropical Queensland, you could not give a wood stove away, and of course this led to a large number of them ending up on refuse tips or at scrap metal merchants.

With the interest in restoring old homes, and the numbers of stoves being discarded, we decided to start collecting as many stoves as possible. We are running into the same problem with the perception that it is too hot in Queensland for wood stoves, but we are hoping that there is a market out there somewhere, possibly in the southern states. At the moment our main business is restoring cast iron and steel stoves, mainly Scotia's, but we of course will rebuild any wood stove. We have quite a large number of spare parts, mostly recycled, and we have the facility to have replacement parts made. A lot of stoves we buy end up being broken down for spare parts.

Be careful when buying an old stove, check it out thoroughly before purchasing. Quite a few people get caught with worthless rusting hulks that finish up in their backyards.

Being keen environmentalists, we feel it is very important to have any wood cooking or heating stove in good order, well sealed and maintained. A badly sealed stove will use large amounts of combustible material and its efficiency will be greatly reduced. You must also be very careful if attempting to dismantle some wood stoves and slow combustion stoves as a lot of them used asbestos and glass fibre as insulation, which requires specialist respiratory equipment to remove and dispose of.

As well as passing on as much as he could of 55 years of experience in wood stove manufacture, my father also left us some original patterns for century-old wood room heaters and cast iron stoves. We are hoping in this year to be



Above: Some renovated stoves on display.



Ross at work on a stove renovation.

### WATER WISE

The total water consumption across Australia averages 2000 litres per day for every person. Three-quarters of that figure is used in agriculture.

Use low phosphorus washing powders. Phosphorus in washing powders and fertilisers is one of the major causes of blue-green algae outbreaks.

able to start manufacturing the room heater which is a very ornate style called 'The Queen'. This would be remembered by the older generation as the heater used in Queensland Railway waiting rooms, and station masters' offices. We have a brochure from a local hardware store, dated 1888, which shows this particular room heater for sale.

We have received a lot of help from the Maryborough City Council through their Employment Economic Development Officer with contacts to help further our business. The Council is in the process of establishing a Heritage Manufacturing Network Group, which will be compiling a promotional brochure for restoration products manufactured in Maryborough. This will be sent out to towns Australia-wide which may wish to introduce the Heritage theme in their centres, or build on an already established theme.

We are hoping to be able to continue our family tradition of quality in our restorations and in the stoves we will be manufacturing.

Readers requiring more information can contact: Ross Daniel, 191 Pallas St, Maryborough 4650. Ph: 071-231-895. Fax: 071-224-974. Previous GRs with articles about wood stoves are: 73, 74, and 66. Articles concerned with wood for stoves are in: 97, 84, 73, and 44.



# Down home on the farm

by David Miller



I am still busy with calving cows on the farm, though over Christmas it was heifers on their first calf that were occupying my time. These have to be watched carefully day and night because they have more difficulty with the birth process. I'd had to help four by the end of December, which is not many, but all of these had to be pulled. This is quite a fascinating process.

The normal presentation of a calf is front legs first, then the head resting on the legs. If the opening is small, the calf gets compressed, so the legs will appear, then its tongue, then the head – when the calf is feeling the squeeze it pokes out its tongue to reduce the pressure on its jaw! To assist, you attach cord to the front legs and pull out and down, and usually the calf slides out easily. At times, though, the head, shoulders, or hips can get caught and more pressure and a certain amount of experience needs to be applied to deliver the animal quickly.

In one of my most difficult births, the calf had its head twisted back so when I pulled the front legs the neck would get caught. I delivered this little bull quite successfully, but he required a third cord attached to his head like a halter so that the jaw could be kept pointing outward along the line of the legs. And it took quite some time getting the halter on because the little sod kept moving his head away (in the dark) all the time.

So I check the cattle three times per day and quickly get to know who is due and how they are going. On one occasion I saw a cow in the act of giving birth and went back for the four wheeler in case I had to bring her into the yards for help. By the time I had ridden over to see how she was going, the calf was on the ground struggling to get up and drink. That's the way it should be – a dramatic five minutes.

One of the main problems with cows having difficulty giving birth is that they lie down for a rest from time to time. They will do this with the feet of the calf

sticking out 10-15cm because they are working to get the head out. While they are gathering strength for the next effort, the crows come and peck the calf's soft feet. Because I was away from the farm for most of the day, I did not catch the last problem birth at the beginning. The cow had been lying around exhausted and the crows had pecked the feet and tongue. However the calf was delivered with a little assistance and is fine now.

We have already had one set of twins, which is exciting but quite unusual. To cap this off we have a new black Highland heifer calf. The black Highlanders are rare in Australia, so this calf will be watched with interest.

We have had over 25mm of rain in the last week, so the locals are walking around smiling. 'The drought has broken' they say, 'All we have to do now is get to autumn and we will be alright.' Local wisdom is that there is always a wet year after a drought, so we are all confidently making ends meet until March. Well, not all of us. I know we are lucky on irrigation properties, but some have run out of water

already. These are usually the dairy farmers whose income is directly related to the number of milking cows grazing irrigated pasture. Usually there is plenty of extra water for irrigation, but not this year, and some had used all their allocation before the end of December!

This year we spent Christmas with Sunshine in Melbourne. It was a very pleasant day, without any rush and bustle, starting early with presents around the tree, moving on to lunch in the city and then back for a snooze before returning home to check on the livestock. Megg and Suni now have a collection of photos of me fast asleep on the sofa in Suni's flat which are not very complimentary. I am afraid my empty threats are not enough to keep them out of sight when visitors appear.

We recently had a visit from Western Australia. My nephew, Jamie, and his partner Andrea are very interested in self-sufficiency, being well known in some circles for permaculturing the backyards of the houses they have rented over the years. They are both very interested in



Ursula, one of our favourite Highland cows. The Highlanders are always interested in anything you do and will often come up and supervise. Thank goodness they are so tame.

poultry, and spent some time with Megg helping her with the birds and making use of her extensive collection of new and old poultry references. After visiting me to see the cattle, they went off and bought a collection of pigeons from the breeders of birds meant for the table, mainly White Kings, Runts and Carneaux. These were taken back as breeding stock for one of the city farms around Perth.

I have always thought Megg's work habits show an enlightened understanding of human nature. She has a whole collection of small jobs going at once, and goes from one to the other, doing a little on each. In this way she never gets bored, achieves a lot in a day, and seldom has to face the nightmare of a hard slog on something enormous that has to be finished at all costs. For years she has maintained a small productive vegetable garden which has been worked in her breaks from office and chook duties, and it has always looked like a low-profile butterfly house. There is wire netting everywhere, not to keep insects in, but in an effort to keep feathered friends out. All has been well until the last month when an unknown predator, or group of defoliators, has been secretly removing every leaf from the vegetables. Some have survived for a while but only long enough to confuse the gardener trying to determine a pattern to the animal's behaviour. Just when Megg thinks she has worked out what is going on, the green gourmet strikes a new patch containing a different vegetable, upsetting the theory and the productivity. Until a week ago, the plants behind the wire were all eaten, so we thought it may be an army of slugs or snails feeding off the leafy greens. Now the taller tomatoes and capsicums have been targeted for destruction and the culprit has still not been identified. Stay tuned for further developments – and we would appreciate your thoughts before all is lost.

Another predator that has quickly identified itself, and which also lives in the garden, is a large tiger snake. There is a water trough under a tree near the corner of the garden, situated so it can be used to bucket water to the poultry in the sheds in the adjacent paddock. Apparently the garden snake has been using this cool spot without permission for its afternoon nap. Megg goes past twice a day feeding and watering the poultry, and twice has frightened the life out of the reptile by quietly and innocently walking up on it while it was having its daily snooze. The

snake, startled, suddenly jumped in the air, hissed the living daylight out of the frightened onlooker, and retired to the garden where it apparently lives. We haven't been able to work out whether the snake or Megg takes the longest to calm down from the fright. I am informed that the snake is getting off lightly, especially when Megg nearly trod on it wearing sandals, and then was confronted with a knee high reptile hissing wildly.

If snakes weren't so life threatening, I am sure we would be much more tolerant of them, because they do a useful job around the poultry sheds controlling mice. Once when Megg was cleaning out nest boxes in the sheds she came upon two snakes under two different boxes and decided it was time to take a break. To make matters more frightening, the ones around our place, if full grown, are usually quite large and in good condition, which cannot be due to egg consumption alone. In fact there has never been any evidence of snakes eating eggs, and we have never found one in a nest, so we are loathe to persecute something that has every right to go about its business in a normal natural way.

All this does not change the fact that you get the fright of your life when you see one, and the closer you are the worse it is for both parties.

Snakes seem to be on the move at the moment. I have seen one on the farm which did the horizontal dive for cover when frightened (I was on the four wheeler though). However when a friend's three year old daughter found one near the poultry shed it had to be despatched for safety reasons.

In the meantime, Megg has developed an uncharacteristically cautious gait while doing her outside jobs.

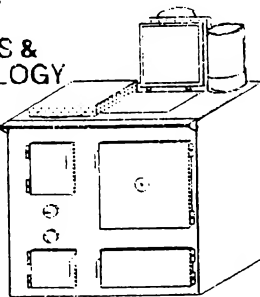
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5 Kenneth Ave, Saratoga 2251

GRASS 66 ROOTS

## PENPALS

Hi there, my name is Mariko and I love reading. I wear glasses and go to a private school and like swimming. I will answer all letters, girls only please.

**Mariko, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.**

Hello, my name is Hayden. I live in Nangkita, South Australia. I would like a boy penpal around my age, which is eight. I live on a ten acre farm. My hobbies are climbing trees, playing football, watching TV and riding my bike. My family's pets are chooks, ducks and a dog called Gypsy. I will reply to all letters.

**Hayden, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.**

Hello, my name is Cameron. I'm ten and I go to Mt Compass area school. I have an eight year old brother, a dog called Gypsy, two ducks and seven chooks. I would like a boy penpal who is eight to ten years old and lives anywhere in Australia.

**Cameron, C/- PO Box 242, Euroa 3666.**

My name is Denis. I am fourteen. I live in Russia. I am a pupil of the eighth form at Secondary School. I would like to find a friend in your country to make a friendship, master the English language and to know more about your life, traditions and culture. I like playing chess and skateboarding.

**Veretennikov Denis, PO Box 22,  
624080, Verkhnjaja Pyshma,  
Sverdlovsk Region, RUSSIA.**

My name is Nastja, I'm eleven years old. I am from Russia. I live in a small town, Verkhnjaja Pyshma, not far from the centre of the Urals. I'm a pupil of the fifth form. I like to read books and to study English. I'd like to find friends in your country.

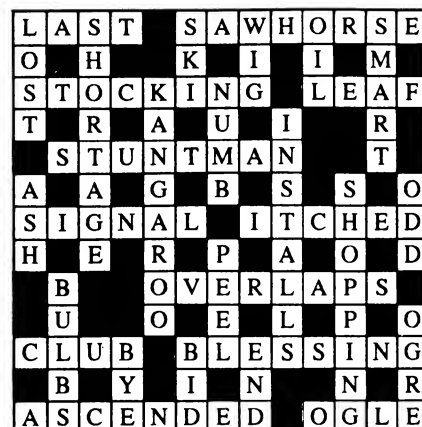
**Maksimovskikh Nastja, PO Box 22,  
624080, Verkhnjaja Pyshma,  
Sverdlovsk Region, RUSSIA.**

## ANT REPELLANTS

For large black ants crush some catnip and distribute on the infested shelves. For smaller red ants use fresh peppermint or spearmint leaves; for tiny ants crush some camphor.

## CRYPTIC GRASSWORD

*Continued from page 47.*



# ROUND THE MARKET PLACE

We hope you enjoy this feature introducing new products relevant to readers' lifestyles and interests.

## DOGGY DO DO DISPOSER

Disposing easily and quickly of your dog's droppings and having a by-product to be able to use on your garden, is the promise from the makers of the DDDD. It is constructed of treated, plantation pine and, when placed in a cool shady location in the garden, has no smell. Ten centimetres of worm castings are placed in the bottom with 1000 worms, dog's droppings, a light sprinkle of castings on top, then watered well. The worms do the rest by turning the doggy droppings into high quality castings.



Available from Worms 'R' Us, 404 Goodwood Rd, CUMBERLAND PARK 5041. Ph: 08-373-6044 or 1-800-064-458.

## GREEN OFFICE PRODUCTS

Greenworld is an enterprise offering a range of high quality office products that provide both economic and environmental benefits over the commonly used alternatives. Products include remanufactured laser print cartridges, refilled inkjet and bubblejet cartridges, dot matrix printer cassettes reloaded with high density ribbon and Microfax, an Australian made fax machine that uses standard office paper instead of thermal paper. These products all provide substantial cost savings whilst being environmentally beneficial. Servicing metropolitan Melbourne and nearby regional areas, Greenworld can be contacted at: PO Box 50, BERWICK 3806. Ph: 03-796-2413. Fax: 03-707-4738.

## HERB VIDEO

The Australian Horticultural Correspondence School have produced a new video for the herb enthusiast. Information covers more than sixty-five different herbs, explaining naming of herbs, companion planting and propagation, growing and use of each one. The information is relevant to growing herbs in all areas of Australia. The herb video is \$29.95 plus \$5 postage and is available from:

The Australian Horticultural Correspondence School, PO Box 2092, NERANG EAST 4211. Ph: 075-304-855. Or, 264 Swansea Rd, LILYDALE 3140. Ph: 03-736-1882.

## NATURAL CAFFEINE-FREE TEA

The most common reason for people seeking an alternative to traditional tea and coffee is to reduce the amount of caffeine in their diets. Vital Rooitea (pronounced Roytea) is a naturally caffeine-free tea that is only grown on the slopes of the Cederberg Mountains, north-west of Cape Town in South Africa. It is now available in Australia in 50 and 100 tea bag packs and 125g loose leaf tea packets. It contains around one percent tannin and includes vitamin C, iron, calcium and magnesium. Vital Rooitea is widely available from health food stores and Woolworths/Safeway and Coles. For a free sample, contact:

Vital Health Foods (Aust), 117 Sussex St, COBURG 3058.  
Ph: 03-350-5099. Fax: 03-350-5044.

## TANK LINERS FILL THE GAP

Now you can repair a holed water tank without the need to apply messy mixtures, by fitting a Bartlett Trafab Tank Liner. The liner is an impervious membrane, UV stabilised and resistant to most acids, alkalis and solvents, that is custom made to suit each individual tank. Installation is simple, with easy to follow instructions supplied. To secure the liner in a corrugated iron tank for example, pop rivets or tek screws are used. With an approved roof, the liner carries a conditional ten year warranty. Bartlett Trafab Tank liners are more cost effective than replacing the entire tank. Further enquiries to:

CE Bartlett Pty Ltd, PO Box 49, WENDOUREE 3355. Ph: 053-393-103.  
Fax: 053-381-241.

## PRIVACY AND SUNLIGHT CONTROL

Winterlite screen is an alternative to shadecloth or more traditional coverage, when you need to provide shade or privacy for your pool, pergola or carport. Made of strong one millimetre thick aluminium alloy and available in mill or powder coated finishes in a range of colours, it is a maintenance-free alternative. The mesh is designed to allow filtered light and breeze through, with 85 percent shade filtration in summer and 88 percent penetration of winter sun. It can be installed, following the manufacturer's instructions, by the home owner or professionally installed to existing or new fences and pergolas. Manufactured by Juralco, a division of Dowell Australia, enquiries can be directed to:

Boral Aluminium Products, 1031-1933 Hume Hwy, CAMPBELLFIELD 3061. Ph: 305-1266.

## SAVING WATER

How do you know when your garden requires watering? How does your automatic watering system judge when watering is necessary? The water requirements of your garden can be easily and accurately determined by the Aquamiser monitor. It works by losing water, through evaporation, at the same rate as the plants in the garden. A float switch in the Aquamiser closes when water in the unit drops to the pre-set level, which activates the watering system. Trials have shown that garden water savings of between 20 and 50 percent are possible through watering with Aquamiser — it only allows watering to occur when required no matter if it is hot, cold or raining. Additional information can be obtained by contacting:

Lance Gladigau, Irritech, 5 Lilac St, TEA TREE GULLY 5091.  
Ph: 08-396-2415. Fax: 08-396-5188.



# GRASS ROOTS AUSTRALIAN FRUIT TREE SURVEY

Buying and trying to grow fruit trees can often be a potluck, trial and error procedure, especially when you are committed to gardening without chemical fertilisers and pest control measures. You can waste years pampering trees that seem determined not to thrive, despite their glowing description in the catalogue, and despite the fact that you know of friends in other (often not very distant) areas who enjoy huge crops from trees of the same variety. Unfortunately, reliable advice about specific varieties best suited to different conditions and areas in Australia is extremely limited.

Through this survey we are aiming to compile a comprehensive guide to help organic gardeners nationwide choose the varieties most likely to produce successfully in their particular circumstances.

We hope readers will co-operate in sharing their experiences by taking a few minutes to complete the survey and send it in to us.

## LOCATION

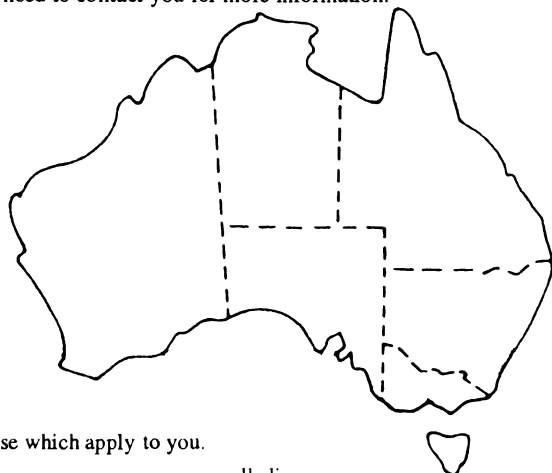
Please mark your location on the map.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Ph:.....

Your identity will not be published, but we require this information in case we need to contact you for more information.



## SOIL

Tick those which apply to you.

|       |          |      |
|-------|----------|------|
| acid  | alkaline |      |
| sandy | gravel   | loam |
| deep  | shallow  |      |

**CLIMATE** – Tick or write names of months where appropriate.

### Frosts

nil                      light                      moderate                      severe

Months when frost can be expected:.....

### Temperature

Hottest months.....

Coldest months.....

### Wind

Windiest months.....

### Rainfall

Average yearly (in millimetres).....

mainly in months of: .....

### Humidity

Months of highest humidity.....

### Extremes

Tick if applicable and note likeliest months to occur.

hail                                      snow                                      cyclones

## TOPOGRAPHY

|        |       |                   |
|--------|-------|-------------------|
| valley | hills | flat              |
| rocky  | steep | gently undulating |

orientation of orchard

altitude (in metres).....

## VARIETIES

Name fruit type and varieties (eg apple: Lady Williams, apricot: Moorpack), most successfully grown using organic methods.

| Fruit & Variety | Month Harvested | Keeping Quality | End Uses |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
|                 |                 |                 |          |
|                 |                 |                 |          |
|                 |                 |                 |          |
|                 |                 |                 |          |
|                 |                 |                 |          |
|                 |                 |                 |          |

## ORGANIC METHODS

Describe any organic methods successfully used to control pests/problems.

| Pest / Problem | Controlled by |
|----------------|---------------|
|                |               |
|                |               |
|                |               |
|                |               |
|                |               |
|                |               |

## MISCELLANEOUS

If you have any further comments, hints or advice (eg propagation, availability) please briefly mention them on a separate sheet.

Thank you for participating. Send your completed survey to **GRAFTS, Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, EUROA, 3666.**



# GRASSIFIEDS

## HOW TO ADVERTISE

Use the form provided at the end of the Grassified section, or a separate sheet of paper, to print your advertisement clearly, not in block capitals, including correct punctuation. Remember to include an address or phone number in your advertisement. Count the number of words and multiply by 40 cents per word (all types of ads) to work out the total cost of your advertisement. Send your advertisement and payment to Grassifieds, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666 before the deadline and we'll include your advertisement in the next issue of Grass Roots.

### PROPERTY FOR SALE NEW SOUTH WALES

**NORTHERN NSW**, Tenants in Common, 2½ ac, well timbered, crk, good aspects. \$15,500, urgent sale. Please ph: 07-358-5595 for more info.

**NORTHERN TABLELANDS**, 25 km from Glen Innes, 159 ac f/hold. Approximately ⅓ clearable, useful timber, balance heavily timbered. Good homesites. \$28,500. Ph: 067-336-733, or 015-702-070.

**BOOROWA**, 70 ac, 3 b/r house, scenic views, 9000 gal tank water, solar/wind generator power, fenced, 4 dams, 2 spring-fed, 1½ hr Canberra. \$100,000 ONO. Ph: 049-450-079.

**SNOWY MOUNTAINS AREA**, 586 ac, central to snowfields, trout fishing, sth coast & Canberra. Part cleared, part timbered. Three b/r b/veneer home. Scenic outlook, water all year. Ph: 064-524-589 AH.

**ROCKY HALL, FAR SOUTH COAST**, 177 ac, nth facing, backing onto Coolangubra Forest. Phone/elec avail, mail service, school bus to Wyndham, Bega. Urgent sale \$60,000 ONO. Ph: 064-942-294.

**BYRON BAY**: Large block (& dwelling). Tropical garden, beaches, mangos, natives, surrounding big older-style house. Timber floors, 3 b/r, big workroom, shed, pump, r/water, s/c fire. Close shops, school, pub, beach. \$160,000. Ph: 066-853-786.

**MID NORTH COAST**, split level western red cedar house on 118 ac cleared land & timbered ridges adj to state forests. Creek frontage with secluded swimming holes. Suit couple or one, easily extended. Open plan living, bathroom, sleeping loft, elevated deck with views to 10 km. Solar and power, HWS, septic, combustion fire, 2 sheds and fernery. Good access, mail delivery, school bus, 50 km to Coffs Harbour. Home area securely fenced. Paradise for bushwalkers & bird-watchers in a peaceful, secluded retreat. Ph: 066-492-144, or 075-453-365.

**NORTH COAST – ELANDS**, 80 ac. Private secluded valley. Large area r/forest. Masonry house. Ph: 065-505-012. PO Box 817, TAREE 2430.

**WALCHA DISTRICT FARMLAND**, 3 b/r timber house on 47 ac, all amenities. Permanent water, dam, 4 paddocks, good fencing, 40'x30' lock-up shed, smaller sheds, yards, approx 400 pine trees, gas & combustion stoves, dual water heating system. School bus, RMB, highway frontage, nearby nat pk, 2 hr to Port Macquarie. \$149,000. Ph: 067-778-118.

**GREVILLIA FREEHOLD**, 56 ac, open forest, abundant bird & wildlife, perm crk & 2 dams, 5 min school & shops, ½ hr Kyogle. \$65,000. Ph: 072-946-343.

**STROUD – LISTENING HILL Arts & Crafts Community**. Modern brick home, brick internal feature walls, o/fire, 4 b/r, verandahs around, huge covered outdoor area. Power, sealed rd access. Five ac f/hold, plus share 130 extra ac, 5000 gal tank, machinery shed, envirocycle, 1 km to village centre. Million dollar panoramic views over Stroud Valley FREE. Suit GR lifestyle. Prerelease price \$225,000. Ph: 049-945-100 BH, 049-945-423 AH.

**TABULAM**, 127 ac, solid stone house, o/fire, timber kitchen, gas fridge/stove/HWS, 12V lighting. Dam, irrigation, r/w/tank. Beautiful views, lots of trees plus cleared meadows. Some f/trees and estab gardens. \$80,000. Ph: 066-514-875.

**FAR SOUTH COAST**, Lett's Mountain (Pericoe district) 20 km from Towamba, 14 ac with mud brick cottage & shed. Private & secluded block with magnif views of Coolangubra Forest. North-facing, excel soil, 2 dams, fenced, sml est orchard. Phone connected, 2WD access. \$45,000. Ph: 069-933-096.

**STONEY CHUTE**, 8½ ac (3.38 ha), mostly level, some hilly, some forest, 10 km from Nimbin. Comfortable home, timber, 2 lge b/rs upstairs. Not on power grid, 12V photovoltaic cell, also LPG for cooking, refrigeration and lighting. Also generator set 3½ KVA 240V for normal power needs. Solar hot water 65G. Concrete 4500 gal w/tank, 6 x 6m galv shed/workshop with concrete floor. All fenced, used for grazing, stunning views all around incl Mt Warning, surrounded by nat pks, school buses past door. Enq: Mr R Linssen, 13 Sherwood Ave, LISMORE 2480. Ph: 066-215-354.

**INVERELL THIRTY MINUTES** (unsealed rd). Good 3 b/r w/b home with all amenities on 15 f/hold ac. Too many improvements to list here. Fact sheet avail on request. Close Pindari Dam. \$115,000 ONO. Ph: Owner, 067-255-521.

**ORANGE**, lge solid old house in peaceful rural setting near Burrendong Dam. All services, r/w/tank, open log fire, usable productive land. \$75,000 ONO. Ph: 063-620-603.

**NORTHERN NSW** with unbeatable views and an excel water supply. Solar house of stone & timber on company title MO (which means very low rates among other things), 5 ac+, 200+ cabinet timber trees 2yo & thriving. Byron Bay 1½ hrs. Professionally built house, 4 b/r, lounge, 2 bathrooms, all timber and tile kitchen, pantry, fridge, Rayburn s/c/stove plus many other desirable features. See GR Oct/Nov issue, pgs 25+26 for photo and article by me. Forty thousand lt water for domestic use, unlimited garden water from lge dams. Phone for more details: 066-897-224. \$143,000 ONO.

Comparable properties in the area on f/hold are bringing upwards of a quarter of a million. **BEMBOKA, FAR SOUTH COAST**, 12 ac building block, 3 km from village. Gently sloping, nth aspect, fenced, power, dam, water licence, sealed rd access. \$47,000. Ph: 064-941-120.

**POLE-FRAME THREE BEDROOM house**, loft, 25 ac fenced, undulating, natural bush, lge w/shop, fenced garden, mains power, council approved, excel access, dam, crk, tanks, 35 min Grafton, 5 min local school. \$160,000. Ph: 066-494-253 AH.

**MID NORTH COAST NSW**, 1100 ac, 4 km river frontage. Freehold, springs, mostly timbered, adj state forest, 3 b/r log cabin, ph, s/c/stove/heater/hot water. \$31,000 of solar power, generator, sheds, environmental prospects, good grazing, timber. Your own bushland retreat situated inland Port Macquarie. \$225,000. Graham & Diane Myer, Coaches Ck, via ELANDS 2429.

**DALTON VIA GUNNING**, 1 hr from Canberra, 30 ac, 1 dam, crk on bndry, fully fenced, sml shed. Secluded yet close to town, schools. Building permit. \$42,000 ONO. Ph: 048-451-333.

**NYMBOIDA, NORTH COAST**, 2 storey, hexagonal, timber, 3 b/r home with study on 100 ac. Sunny spacious dwelling with balcony and verandahs overlooking stunning views. Power, ph, good access, sheds, dam, well fenced, abundant organic vegie garden. Independent 1 b/r cottage. Property is 80% wooded with hoop pine, silky oaks and r/forest species, perm crk, prolific wildlife incl kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots, possums, platypus, eagles, parrots. Pure peaceful environment within a friendly community. \$160,000. Ph: 066-845-206.

**UNSPOILT BUSH REFUGE** (56 ac), 4 km from Mt Darragh Rd near Wyndham NSW. Livable shack, ph, unlimited wood, 50 min to Pambula Beach, current development application. \$60,000 ONO. Ph: 06-294-1986, mobile 018-622-700.

**EMMAVILLE, NORTH GLEN INNES**, 170 ac peaceful, secluded, flat to undulating, on Summerville Estate, Gulf Rd. Located at base of ranges with spring-fed crk as back bndry, 4 km with private fishing spots. Choice of homesites with power & ph nearby. \$45,000 ONO. Ph: 02-872-6420 AH, 015-228-804 BH. Graham Wilson.

**TAREE AREA – ELANDS**, 250 ac timbered, some cleared, f/hold. Creek, natural spring, dams, sheds. \$100,000. Ph: 075-242-944.

*Please print your ad clearly  
so we can do likewise.*

## PROPERTY FOR SALE NEW SOUTH WALES

BEAUTIFUL TEMPERATE MOUNTAIN r/ forest property, 180 ac, 90 km inland Pt Macquarie NSW. Access, perm crks and river frontage, backing state forests and nat pk, suitable for tourist operation or stone fruit orchards. 'Settlers' Cottages', loft style, w/red cedar hardwood, prof built house. Urgent sale. \$65,000. Ph: 015-147-921, 24 hr.

MUDGE/MERRIWA, 102 ac, organic farm, rich basalt soil, nestled in valley with perm crk and rocky outcrops. Ten paddocks incl conservation areas, lge irrigated orchard, vegie garden. Irrigation license, 20,000 gal storage plus 5000 gal r/w/tanks. Machinery shed. Cosy mud brick/timber home, s/c/gas/stoves, ph, power. School bus at gate. \$150,000. Turill, Ph: 063-761-195.

NATURAL UNSPOILED FOREST inland from Eden on the far sth coast of NSW - 100 ac facing nth to a nat pk across a sml river. East & sth bndrys are creek. Very private, very lovely. Perfect for sharing, or own-your-own nat pk. \$78,000. Please ring Nancy on 047-824-856, 047-841-020.

RAINFOREST, NO STRESS! Dorrigo address, perm crk, home worth a peek, acreage, peach trees, rates sure to please. Offers OK, ring us today. \$115,000. Ph: 066-578-124.

HISTORIC HARGRAVES, 40 min from Mudgee, 32 fully fenced gentle ac, some cleared, some with estab trees. Fully equipped bore with windmill, 3 dams, 1 x 7000 gal cement r/w/tank plus 2 gravity-fed water storage tanks to house. Large sheds, fenced garden, chook run, duck pond and orchard. Spacious house features open plan timber kitchen with fuel stove, dining room, sunken lounge with fuel heater, 3 b/r etc. Power, ph connected. \$140,000. Ph: 063-738-556.

MOUNTAIN RETREAT in bush/forest, 225 ac. Heavy timbered, views to coast, river & mtns, 4WD access. Huge trees & private crk & r/forest. Large 2 b/r cabin/shed/w/shop all there, 3 w/tanks. Large generator, solar power & hot water. Leadlights, fuel stove, potbelly. Birds, koalas etc. Secluded & peaceful. Timber & stone also for building. Someone's dream, 20 min Wauchope. \$120,000 ONO. Ph: 065-874-404.

FAR SOUTH COAST NSW 100 ac, comprising (approx) 10 ac cleared river flat with perm water & irrigation licence; 60 ac gently sloped light timbered with choice of excel homesites; balance rugged, secluded bush to nat pk bndry. Good all-weather access, council approved Colorbond machinery shed/temporary residence. Highly suitable for permaculture development and/or organic production. \$95,000. Ph: 064-937-307.

## QUEENSLAND

BUNYA MOUNTAINS, 3 b/r home, stabilised earth block, 10 ac, spectacular views, bore, windmill, 20x25 steel framed shed. Mountain stream, fenced, solar power, mains avail. Adjacent nat pk, r/forest, f/trees, gardens estab. \$130,000. Ph: 076-625-331.

# GRASSIFIEDS

PLACING AN AD?  
See page 69 for details

NOOSA HINTERLAND/SUNSHINE COAST, Nev Kane Real Estate, Cooroy. If you want to buy or sell in the hinterland give us a call. All enq welcome. contact: Gwen Morton on 074-476-988, AH 074-854-291, or 015-130-432. COOMINYA, 10 ac, 2 dams, partly fenced, 30 min Ipswich. \$36,000 ONO. Ph: 07-409-1458. GREEN PARADISE, 2 b/r fully bolted house, 2 lockable bolted sheds, double c/port bolted. Power, ph, bitumen past door, 10 min from Herberton on Atherton Tableland. Every f/tree imaginable, good vegie garden, good bore, 6000 gal cement w/tank plus 3 r/w/tanks, all land irrigated. Situated between 2 crks, a pump in seasonal crk. All machinery & furniture - WIWO. \$95,000 or \$85,000 bare. Will negotiate other options. Call owner: 070-962-591.

GRANDCHESTER - QUEENSLAND, 20 ac, slightly undulating, neat 3 b/r highset Hardiplank home with 2 air conditioners, recently renovated, 7000 gal tanks, shed, yards, dam. Securely fenced & subdivided. Walking distance to school and close to rail, 1 hr Brisbane and Toowoomba. \$130,000. Ph: 074-655-327, or write: Garry Summerville, 26 Sippells Rd, M/S 366, GRANDCHESTER 4340.

NOOSA, 130 ac, very private, well-treed, dam, crk. Chemically free. \$150,000. Ph: Jenny, 074-498-132 AH.

SPRINGBROOK, 3 b/r brick home on 1.2 ac. Large shed. Adjoins rec reserve with crk & r/forest. \$240,000. Springbrook Real Estate. Ph: 075-335-188 all hours.

BRISBANE AREA - ROSEWOOD, romantic lge Queenslander built 1912, 30 sq on 1/2 ac, 4 b/r, 2 bath/r, kitchen, family, study, ballroom size lounge, 60 min by electric rail to Brisbane. Owner must sell. \$155,000. Ph: 07-399-6338.

FINCH HATTON GORGE. Hiway, Mackay area, modern 3 b/r home set in 10 ac of tropical r/forest, f/trees, crystal clear water, ph, hydro elec, nicely landscaped, absolute privacy. \$140,000. Also, 5 ac r/forest block, 1 ac, cleared, perm stream, secluded area. \$40,000. Ph: 079-551-385.

DAGUN: in picturesque Mary Valley, 20 min sth Gympie, 1 1/2 hr Brisbane, 42 ac of fertile volcanic soil (recent soil test), organic, certifiable with BFA, 280 avocado, 150 mango, 60 custard apple, 30 lychee, 80 pecan - all 10-15 yrs - 60 banana, plus 40 assorted fruit & nut. Irrigation to most trees, spring-fed dam with 13 hp diesel motor & pump, some forest. At present f/trees provide secondary income (full-time if desired). Three b/r (2 b/i) Qld'er, office, potbelly, 2 c/port - new stumps (concrete) wiring, plumbing, paintwork (in & out) and 5000 gal r/w/tank. Sheds, huge greenhouse & dog run. Great views. Rates \$360 pa. Private sale. \$175,000. Ph: 074-843-425.

RAINFOREST RETREAT - 5 ac situated 2 min from Barron River, swimming/fishing, just 10 min from beautiful Kuranda village, 30 min Cairns and beaches FNQ. Includes 2 b/r 120 sq in masonry block dwelling, estab tropical gardens, separate pergola, double c/port & w/

shops, power, ph, and tar sealed rd. General store/laundry just 300 m, school bus past gate. Steiner school to open soon and new high school to operate by 1996. All this and still peace & privacy. Reluctant sale due to marriage breakdown. \$160,000 ONO. Ph: 070-937-611 AH.

TARA, TWO BEDROOM HOME. \$38,000. Details posted. Ph: 076-653-167 (evenings).

WHITSUNDAYS, TWO SPOTS, 11 ac, 15 min Proserpine, 5 min Laguna Quays Golfing Resort, bore, bond paid on electricity connection on block, 5 ac ex-cane farming, 6 ac in centre that rises to ideal homesite with 330° views - lovely private spot with stunning outlook. \$48,000. Five ac, 10 min Conway Beach, 25 min Airlie Beach, 2 b/r, 2 yo red cedar Qld'er. Verandahs, french doors, tile & carpet, red cedar l/up garage with c/port. Bore & r/w/tank. Look up to Conway Range. \$144,000. Ph: owner, 074-845-579.

JIMNA TOWNSHIP, for sale 1/4 ac, all amenities plus school and shop. No crime, quiet, set in Conondale Range State Forest, lots of birds & native animals. Plenty of bird-watching & bushwalking. Only 1/2 hr to Kilcoy. \$11,000. Ph: 074-973-146.

RETIRE ON FORTY ACRES. Split face block home, 240V solar power, gas fridge & freezer. Many extras too numerous to list. Write to: F Reeve, M/S 612, KINGAROY 4610. Ph: 071-641-184.

FORTY ACRES, 70 km Kingaroy, Qld. Dam, crk, fenced, shed. \$30,000. Ph: owners. 072-862-880.

BETWEEN MARYBOROUGH AND GYMPIE, Qld. Lovely wooded block with crk, 2 1/4 ac. \$18,000. Ph: 066-801-039.

IT NEEDN'T COST A FORTUNE to get that dream block - Mt Perry, 1 1/2 hr inland from Bundaberg, 1 3/4 ac with perm wooded crk on bndry. Once town market garden. \$18,000 ONO. Ph: 091-854-605.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND, totally organic huge block. Open living, old home. Tropical fruits, mini r/forest, elect, new water lines, bore water avail. \$85,000. Ph: 070-979-297.

GOLD COAST - large family home, 70 squares. Suit alternative lifestyle with village amenities. Situated on 1 1/2 ac at the foothills of Tamborine Mountains, lake frontage opening onto park and pony trail with views to mountains. An abundance of wildlife - latest additions ducklings. House has all the usual features - rustic style, cathedral ceilings, fireplace, open plan with large billiard room & bar. Tropical gardens, pool, stables, workshop & separate self-contained guest house. This large extended family home lends itself to many ideas eg health farm etc. \$450,000. For further info ph Joy: 075-731-384.

## VICTORIA

BRIGHT LITTLE HOME on big corner block beside Ararat Showgrounds. \$36,500. Details posted. Ph: 053-525-636.

To avoid disappointment ensure  
your ad meets our deadline

## PROPERTY FOR SALE VICTORIA

VIOLET TOWN, VICTORIA, 2 ac, lovely bush block, SEC & ph avail. Large livable shed on block, close to town. Price \$25,000 ONO. contact: Kris or Ken Douglas, 057-981-627.

WILLAURA, THREE BEDROOM w/b home on double block, town water, sewerage, SEC, near new w/stove, new HWS, rewired & freshly painted, 2 air conditioners, gas heater & carpeted. Walk to shops, school, swimming pool, bowling club, 20 min Ararat, 30 min Granpians. Ideal retirement, holiday or starting family. Partly furnished, estab garden, outside laundry & sheds. Genuine reason for sale. No agents please. Price \$30,000. Ph: 053-541-484.

GIPPSLAND EAST, central to Buchan, Orbost and Lakes Entrance. Homestead (3 b/r) on 17 pastured ac. Old orchard, permaculture garden, 2 dams, shedding, verandahs, pergolas. Superb quiet location. Own power system. \$155,000. Ph: 051-542-632.

WIMMERA AREA, 8 km from town, 38 ac, good fencing, 2 paddocks, dam & tank water, huge shed 60x30', single garage, other shedding, horse yard. Brick house, 3 b/r, high ceilings, fair carpets, o/fire lounge, gas cooking/heating, elec HWS. \$80,000 ONO. Contact owner direct, 053-972-337.

GIPPSLAND EAST, 9 km Swifts Creek, school bus route, 29 ac. Half timbered. \$39,000. One and a quarter ac with nut trees \$17,000. Write: PO Box 57, SWIFTS CREEK 3896. Ph: 051-594-317 AH.

FOSTER, GIPPSLAND, 7 ac, perm crk, tree ferns, platypus, 1/2 clear, 1/2 bush, house site facing nth. Large dam, SEC, lovely views, good access, ideal hobby farm or self-suff. \$52,500. Ph: 03-899-5689.

AMBIENCE, Waratah Nth, Sth Gippsland, magnif 13 1/2 ac bushland, adj old growth forest. Wildlife incl goannas. House 4 b/r, verandahs, central beaches/towns, solar, gas. \$195,000. Ph: 056-832-213.

BETWEEN PORTLAND AND HAMILTON, SW Vic. Attractive 8 ac block adj state forest. Two dwellings, lge new orchard & extensive shady garden, birds galore. Bore & tank water. Within driving distance of many nat pks and beaches. \$80,000 ONO. Ph: 055-782-249.

SWIFTS CREEK. Substantial 4 b/r, w/b home with spacious living area, on 3.5 ac, with restful Jambo River frontage. Park-like organic garden, many fruit & nut trees, herb & vegie gardens, poultry pen & lge shed. All services incl town water. On Omeo Highway, 1 km shops, primary & secondary schools. Ideal position for holiday units, subdivision or the good life. Ph: R Collier, 051-594-394.

CENTRAL GIPPSLAND, attractive, 2 b/r, solid brick sunny home, excel 360° views, 15 min Warragul, 1 hr Melbourne. \$77,000. Ph: 056-264-274.

PICTURESQUE COMBIENBAR VALLEY, E Gippsland, 3-4 b/r house on 10 fertile ac, excel pasture with shade trees. Suit any GR activities. Abundant water, many sheds, disused brick dairy suit studio etc. Large comfortable house furnished incl fridge,

# GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR108 – FEBRUARY 24TH  
GR109 – APRIL 24TH

washer. \$65,000. Ph: 051-585-232, or 053-689-318, Ray.

LANGWARRIN, mud brick, 3 b/r house, nth facing, cathedral ceilings, double c/port. \$89,500 ONO. Ph: 059-786-940.

DEAR GR READERS here is a good chance to purchase land that offers so much. Clean running water, sml pockets of semi-r/forest areas, an abundance of wildlife and surrounded by state forest. This property is 40 min from Baimsdale on the beautiful headwater of the Nicholson River. For the past 11 yrs the Nicholson Co-op has developed into a diverse community with strong environmental values. I have built a mud brick/cedar home which is solar powered and has generator back-up. There is a sml house orchard and a further 250 cherry trees approaching cropping. Due to work commitments my family and I are forced to leave the area and are looking for like-minded people, who could enjoy the lifestyle that this property offers. Price \$75,000 ONO. If anyone has any enquiries please contact Ray Dale, ph: 051-564-275.

LAKE TYERS, EAST GIPPSLAND, approx one ac. Fruit trees, dam, tank water, plenty shedding, 3 b/r 14 sq home, solid fuel heater, ducted vacuum system, close to primary school, bush setting, fully fenced, crown lease avail. \$131,000. Ph: 051-565-490.

STRATH CREEK: idyllic owner-builder package less than 1 hr from Melbourne. Eighty ac bush bordering Mt Disappointment State Forest, incl train carriages-cottage, 2 dams, cleared house site with fabulous views, SEC and transformer, and telecom avail. \$85,000 ONO. Ph: Gary/Di, 03-326-1608.

GIPPSLAND EAST – FARMLET, nestled high on a hill with panoramic views of the Snowy River flats is this lovely 5 yo colonial style 4 b/r b/veneer home. Surrounded by wide verandahs & set on 4 1/2 ac. Town water. Blackwood kitchen, spacious lounge and dining, with solid fuel heater. Brick feature walls t/out and soaring cathedral timber lined ceilings to living areas. Slate flooring & pure wool carpets, 32x22 steel garage. Tranquil private country living at its very best, 15 min from Marlo where the Snowy River meets the sea, a fisherman's paradise. \$169,000. Ph: 03-762-3461.

FIVE ACRES OF LAND & 3 b/r, w/b cottage + use of further 10 ac. Town water and elec, sheds & stables + lge dam. Suit organic garden or herbs. Originally subdivided into 10 titled lots. Permit for mud brick houses avail. On regular Hamilton/Ballarat bus route. Small quiet secluded town. \$67,500 ONO. Ph: 055-724-913, or write, C/- 212 Kent Rd, HAMILTON 3300.

GREAT GET-AWAY! Rolling bushland, 5 ac (2 ha). Great for w/end get-aways or perm residence. Blackwood, wattle & eucalypts. Volcanic rock for garden walls, paths etc. Stone walls on 2 sides. Koalas, wallabies, kangaroos,

echidna, abundant bird life. Good soil & high rainfall. Basic, lge hut, 5x6m. Water tank. Equipped for basic, functional living. Woodburning stove, most kitchen utensils, saucepans, bed, mattress, kitchen table. SEC & Telecom close. Very reluctant sale. \$18,000. Stoney Rises, 30 min from Colac. Ph: Andy, 03-877-9119.

GIPPSLAND/MIRBOO NORTH. Permaculture inspired, 1.5 ac stylish Californian bungalow with beautiful views from every room. Leadlight windows, spacious living areas, 2-3 b/r, huge bathroom. Lovely cornices & ceiling panels. Rich growing area, 28 organic f/trees, chicken coop. Solar hot water, solar/wind power. Double garage + shed, 5 min town. \$122,000. Ph: 056-682-172.

LAL LAL – BALLARAT AREA, 11 3/4 ac beautiful bush, part cleared, fully fenced, organic vegie garden, some f/trees. Paddocks for goats, house cow etc. Sheds, chook house. Self-cont bungalow/shed, fully insulated & plaster lined, painted with Bio Paint, water tanks. House site levelled. Ph & SEC, 10 mins to Lal Lal Falls, general store, primary school, 30 min Ballarat. \$55,000. Ph: 053-417-836.

## TASMANIA

EAST COAST TASMANIA: Affordable lifestyle in sml town. Well maintained cottage on lge block. Three b/r, car accom, w/shop, hothouse, woodshed, storage shed, Saxon wood heater, town & tank water. Easy walk to shops, hotel, library, high school, hospital, golf course, 10 min to beaches. \$42,000. Ph: 003-722-186.

TASMANIA – SANDFLY (30 min W of Hobart), secluded bush retreat, 37 native forest ac, mtn views, house site, crk, \$44,000. Opportunity to create firewood supply business at \$60+ per ton delivered Hobart. Reserves 4-6000 tons approx. Owner, ph/fax: 074-935-341.

COLLINSVALE: sml village 20 min from Hobart GPO – 2 b/r house, pine-lined, open plan living. Set on 2 ac with perm crk, magnif bush & mtn views. Cottage garden & some f/trees. Storage shed & 7 coloured sheep incl. \$85,000 ONO. Ph: 002-390-121.

TASMANIAN RIVERFRONT HOME with crk on 24 ac. Heavily forested with 3 b/r rustic house partially unfinished. Huge lounge with lge deck, 1 1/2 ac cleared with 40 fruit/nut trees. Electricity connected, great water supply, 4 km from historic village – Derby, NE Tas. \$78,000 ONO. Ph: 003-542-347.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OB FLAT NEAR MT GAMBIER, 3 b/r limestone home, tiled roof, r/water 9500 gal. Handyman w/shop rear, double c/port front. Large w/shop – 9x11x3m, 3 phase power, 30 ac volcanic soil. \$175,000. Ph: 087-268-329. Write: R G Pritchard, Box 976, MT GAMBIER 5290.

**Make Your Editor Smile –  
Punctuate!**

## PROPERTY FOR SALE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

TWENTY-NINE ACRE estab hobby block. Superb river views, historic 3 b/r house, Moorook Riverland. Urgent sale. \$45,000. Ph: Libby, 084-831-261.

ADELAIDE HILLS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 11.9 ac as 1/7 of permaculture share title. Purpose-built 220 sq m fully dedicated passive solar house. Plastered mud brick, all natural materials, 2 integrated glasshouses, tile floors, tile roof, 2 solar HWS, wood cook stove with hot water boost, 2 bathrooms, double r/water collection system (gravity-fed & pump), 2 x 5000 gal r/water storage tanks. Wood & toolshed, 120 organic fruit & nut trees 9 yrs old, 2 lge organic gardens, dam, drip irrigation, windmill & elec pump system from huge common dam, backs onto protected native forest. Five ac out of the 11.9 ac are bush-timber (self-suff woodlot). \$210,000. Contact: E Wittmer, PO Box 30, FLAXLEY 5153.

## COMMUNITIES

CRYSTAL WATERS PERMACULTURE VILLAGE, 1 ac f/hold land & houses avail on this growing rural Group Title development, 500 ac of forested & arable common land for sustainable uses. Contact: K Spencer, 24 Crystal Waters, MS 16, MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-725.

KOOKABURRA PARK ECO-VILLAGE, stage one sold out, 2nd stage selling fast. Freehold title to your lot plus 360 ac owned in common. Underground services. Community hall and village lot, 20 ac agricultural area, 2.5 km to town, schools, shops. Newsletter avail. For more info ph: 071-531-303, or write to: Lot 3 Kookaburra Park, MS 368, GIN GIN 4671.

UNDEVELOPED SHARE, (1/25) in 1000 ac. Machinery shed, council approved MO, seclusion, lovely views, ph avail but not connected, 4WD access, 1 1/2 hrs Byron Bay \$45,000. T Brennan, Whites Rd, KYOGLE 2474. Serious enquiries only.

TEN ACRES NORTHERN NSW, Black Horse Creek via Kyogle, 1/25 share on 950 ac. Creek frontage, 50+ f/trees, 20x30ft shed/verandah, ph, 2000+1000 gal tanks, chook run. Wildlife reserve 750 ac, regenerating forest, beautiful valley views. Friendly community, school run, bus nearby to town. \$30,000. Ph: 073-438-359, or 072-541-884.

NIMBIN THREE KILOMETRES, share of 65 ac. Communal orchards, dams, laundry, chook run. Oriental style 2 b/r home with lge verandah & vegie garden, 12/240V. Bus to Steiner & other schools. Happily functioning community! \$75,000. Ph: 066-891-564.

FIVE ACRES AND HOUSE nth NSW for person/s interested in wildlife, forest regeneration. Koalas, echidnas, wallabies etc. About 100 bird species. Peaceful. Pleasant neighbours. Solar, s/c/stove, tank & dam water. \$52,000. Ph: 066-897-496.

NIMBIN, SIX KILOMETRES, comfortable 2-3 b/r house, garage 6x8m, adj nat pk, 12/240V, 2 ac homesite, 1/36 share. \$75,000 ONO. Ph: 066-895-035.

# GRASSIFIEDS

PLACING AN AD?  
See page 69 for details

KYOGLE, 1/25 share in 960 ac, 10 ac share, f/trees, spring water to all of share, gravel access & privacy. \$30,000. Ph: Tracey, C 6-245-707 AH. PO Box 492, LISMORE 2480.

MOGO, NSW SOUTH COAST, 1/17 share in co-op owning 50 ac bush near coast. Solar power, tank water (with private c/van park zoning), used as recreation & conservation orientated hideaway. Price incl share, own use site area, c/van & shed, communal facilities, showers, BBQ etc. \$6500. Ph: 06-288-6559.

NORTH COAST NSW - 1122 ac (454 ha) community on 5 titles boasting beautiful r/forest, superb wildlife, property bordered one side by kms of river & bordered on another side by 22,000 ha state forest, only 120 ac cleared with the rest forested mtn ranges & secluded valleys. Community homestead, guest house, access to variety of machinery, share in sawmill, 40 min to great beaches, only 15 min to Taylors Arm Pub & store, great school with free bus from gate. Two parcels avail now: (1) 4 shares with 14 ac personal allocation, pole frame for house erected on prime elevated homesite, fenced incl cow bail & yard, new 8000 lt aquaplate tank, pipes & fittings, underground ph line to housesite - price \$89,000. (2) 3 shares with 7 ac personal allocation to be selected by purchaser - price \$59,000. For further info Ph: 066-286-388. Genuine enquiries only.

STROUD, NSW, LISTENING HILL Arts & Crafts Community. Twelve f/hold residential building blocks, 2 1/2 to 5 ac, plus 130 ac common land. Power, ph, sealed rd. Minutes to town. Newcastle 1 hr, Sydney 2 1/2 hrs. Suit GR lifestyle. Reserve your block at prerelease prices. Terra Cottage Gallery, Bucketts Way, STROUD 2425. Ph: 049-945-100 BH, 049-945-423 AH.

LISMORE - KYOGLE, new 4 b/r home on 2 serene ac. North aspect, Strata-titled, estab fruit/nut trees, vegie garden. Wide verandahs, magic views. Close to schools and shop. \$115,000. Ph: 066-337-066.

NIMBIN, SHARE on happily functioning 65 ac MO. Communal orchards, dams, laundry, chook run. Oriental style 2 b/r home with character. Artistic designed verandah with pond, 12/240V. \$75,000. Ph: 066-891-564.

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

ELEVEN KILOMETRES FROM GRAFTON on Casino Rd, 57 sq m pottery & attached 2 b/r, b/v house on 3/4 ac fenced block. Verandahs on 3 sides, 2 car garage, lge shed at rear. Price incl 10.7 c ft LTM gas kiln & furniture, some shelving, Greenfield ride-on mower, floor coverings. Price \$200,000. Enquiries: Mark Bennett, Lot 6 Casino Rd, Mountain View via GRAFTON 2460. Ph: 066-447-680.

COUNTRY NURSERY, estab business, shed, c/van, greenhouse. Why travel? Work from home. \$30,000 incl stock. Call Agent, 071-531-825.

HEALTH FOODS, growing business in growth industry. T/O av \$14,809 mth. Sole operator. Could introduce organic fruit, vegies for greater t/o. Asking \$65,000 + SAV. Call Geoff Horner on 065-626-144 BH, 065-625-281 AH. Winsome First National RE, 38 Smith St, KEMPSEY 2440.

NURSERY, FREEHOLD, 18 km from Hobart GPO, wholesale/retail business. Established 1922, same owner for past 8 years, 7 glasshouses (approx 3x15m), 7 igloos (3 of 4x22m, 4 of 4x10m), 1 glass/shadehouse 30x10m approx, + shade areas, work vehicle + tractor, soil mixer. \$170,000 + SAV. For more details: ph: 002-492-200.

## FOR RENT

FARM LEPPINGTON (SYDNEY) FOR RENT, or joint venture, 5 ac, house, big workshop, industrial power, town water. Ph: Donna, 052-569-6062.

CHEAP RENT for some child minding/farm help. Possible casual work in general store. Suit single parent. Own transport and n/s essential. Write to: Mr & Mrs Brett, PO Box 95, BALLANDEAN 4382.

WANTED, RELIABLE PERSON(S) to rent 100 ac, shed, c/vans, abundant water. \$50 per week. Ph: 066-445-667, or 067-376-678.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE interested in organic gardening to rent our 2 b/r miners' cottage from April '95. Having done all the hard work we need a holiday and offer privacy & self-suff from a 1/2 ac suburban block. \$110 pw. Ph: Moira or Paul, 074-827-442, GYMPIE QLD.

WILSONS PROMONTORY/Waratah Nth, holiday rental up to 4 weeks. Self-cont cottage in rural/forest setting, wildlife, central beaches/towns, sleeps 5, solar, gas. Ph: 056-832-213.

VERY SUNNY 2 b/r home, excel views, no neighbours, 15 min Warragul, avail Feb. Ph: 056-264-274.

UNIQUE RENTAL OPPORTUNITY: Intriguing mud brick cottage on 10 ha near Millbank (Kempsey/Macksville area), avail for short or long-term rental. Features power, ph, s/c/stove. Set amongst diverse native forest with scenic outlook, 5 ac cleared, good dam, some fruit & nut trees planted. On school bus route. Reduced rental for tenants on a caretaker basis. Ph: Steve, 056-871-428. RMB 3637, YANAKIE 3960.

SECLUDED FOREST CABIN, all amenities. Beautiful setting Hunter region, perm crk. Suit artist, writer, nature lover. Nominal rent for some maintenance, n/s, n/d. References required. 'For Rent (GR 107)', C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

## WANTED TO RENT

NEED COTTAGE ON ACRES, responsible caretaker, keen gardener, New England area, for April 1995, close to bus service. PO Box 1199 BATEMANS BAY 2536.

Please print your ad clearly  
so we can do likewise.



## WANTED TO RENT

WOMAN, 45 yo, recovering from chronic fatigue, pagan beliefs, seeking cheap place to rent long term. Ph: Susan, 075-244-931, Mon to Fri between 9 & 4.

URGENT! RURAL/COASTAL nth NSW, two 2-3 b/r houses to rent long term for 2 responsible GR couples. References avail. From May/June. Please Ph: 03-376-3431 (Tyren), or 03-480-1676 (Sam).

RENTAL/CARETAKING WANTED by Seventh-Day Sabbath keeper. Willing to help with gardening etc. Reply 'Christian (GR 107)' C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

LONG TERM, MACKAY area, low rent in exch for some c/taking. Responsible 26 yo female & 1 dog, prefer fenced yard, un/furn, screened, bush OK. Reply: PO Box 1641 MACKAY 4740. Must have vehicle shelter.

## WANTED TO RENT/BUY

THREE/FOUR BEDROOM house with sheds on acreage for family of 4, pref nth NSW or will consider other areas or vendor terms. wanted late Dec early Jan, close access to school. Please ring r/c 089-453-267.

WA, WANTED, HOME to rent/caretake/buy. Caring family being destroyed by city life & environment, desperately needing rural sanctuary. We would like SW of Perth, shed/farm/ shack - anything. Electricity/water and school. (Adoptable grandparents a bonus). References avail. Dennison, 29 Planet St, CARLISLE 6101, or Ph: 098-361-1228.

THREE FAMILIES wishing to estab a co-op self-suff lifestyle based on permaculture principles require long-term lease or vendor finance for acreage in Denmark WA. We are also interested in land in need of regeneration. For further info: Paul & Deborah, 58 King St, EAST FREMANTLE 6158. Ph: 09-339-7487.

## EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE, YACHT, Roberts 33, for land or 4WD. Approximate value \$30,000. Mr G Snabaitis, PO Box 270, COOKTOWN 4871. MALENY/MONTVILLE for Tweed Valley-Murwillumbah Hinterland-Mullumbimby-Byron - 9-12 months+. Charming cedar cottage, spacious loft, decks & sep cabin b/r. Tranquil garden setting close to Maleny/Montville townships, superb views from every room. Exchange wanted, due to work commitments, of similar type of property in the above areas. Ph: 074-943-107 ASAP.

## WANTED

NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS. Wattle blossom, gum nuts, etc. All types, fully dried, native materials considered. Large quantities preferred. Good prices plus freight paid. Contact: Peter Hunt, PO Box 53, NORTHCOTE 3070. Ph: 03-482-2677.

ACTIVIST SEEKS PARTNER/helper to start Neem Network in Australia & overseas. Write: Dryland Recl Project, PO Box 1166, CHARTERS TOWERS 4820.

POTBELLY STOVE for smll bush cabin. Sydney to mid-north coast, NSW. Andy, PO

# GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR108 - FEBRUARY 24TH  
GR109 - APRIL 24TH

Box 222, TERRY HILLS 2084.

NEWCASTLE & SURROUNDING AREAS, two single mums would like to hear from others interested in buying home/land together. Reply: PO Box 328, WALLSEND 2287.

## MISCELLANEOUS

COONOOON - GIBBER wood heaters. Will burn for days w/out going out and heat large areas. \$375 freight-free to your door. No assembly required. For more info: Dave, 14 Sixth Ave, CHELTENHAM 5014.

THE HOMEBUILT DYNAMO (construction plans). Brushless electric generator, 1000 watt DC at 740 RPM. A\$85 postpaid airmail from: Al Forbes, Box 3919-GR, AUCKLAND, New Zealand. Ph: 0011-649-818-8967 anytime. Philips Ferroxdure rotor magnets (3700 gauss) kit now avail cut to size and magnetised.

CHIP HEATERS. No elec needed for instant hot water, operates from town or tank water supply. Enq: Ray Williams, 5 Bonnie Springs Rd, JINDERA 2642. Ph: 060-263-621.

THE WORLD'S BEST AUTOMATIC MOUSETRAP. No poison or bait needed, catch up to 20 mice each setting, rugged metal construction, simple to set by winding spring. Priced at \$45 + \$5 postage anywhere in Australia. RA Williams, 5 Bonnie Springs Rd, JINDERA 2642. Ph 060-263-621.

MUD BRICKS - 15"x10"x5" from 75c. Tested to 4.1 Other sizes avail. Hipwell Mudbricks, AXEDALE 3551. Ph: 054-336-370.

WIDDERSHINS CRYSTAL & GEMSTONE jewellery, trade only. Also beads & findings avail to all craftspeople. PO Box 213, MOONTA 5558. Ph/fax: 088-253-453.

HORSE DRAWN IMPLEMENTS, corn shellers, gristers, adzes, broad axes, lots hard to find old farm tools. Ph: 067-421-191. PO Box 195 GUNNEDAH. 96 Bloomfield St, GUNNEDAH 2380. Gunnedah Country Collectables.

SOLAR INVERTOR, WEA 3203, PC, \$210. Ph: 056-264-274.

BRIQUETTE HOT WATER SERVICE, low pressure. \$50. Ph: 03-802-5681.

EVERY TOOL YOU NEED to do all those everyday repair jobs which occur on the block. Seventeen full size tools in 420 stainless steel, built to military specification - practically indestructable, with a lifetime guarantee. Pliers, screwdrivers (4), files (2), wirecutters, knives (2), awl, rules (imp & metric) and more; all folding into one 10cm x 5.5cm nylon belt pouch & within reach anywhere, anytime. Copied but never equalled, the SOG Paratool is a first-class toolkit on your belt for \$85. For more info send an SAE to: Caradoc Enterprises GR107, PO Box 345, NANANGO Qld 4615. Ph: 071-633-047.

FEELING LOW? Take pure Amazon rainforest GUARANA to feel better. GUARANA increases stamina, reduces appetite, eases stress & tension, eases headache, migraine &

period pain. 20x500mg capsules (pocket pack) \$14.40, 60x500mg capsules (30 days pack) \$28.80, 50g tub (pure powder, 30 day+) \$12.95, 12 pieces Buzz Gum (chewing gum) \$2.60. LAPACHO another Amazon rainforest dietary supplement is extracted from the bark of the LAPACHO tree. LAPACHO assists in cleansing the body after illness. 60x500mg capsules (30 days pack) \$33.15. Free packet Buzz Gum with orders over \$12. P&P \$3.00.

As a coffee replacement, loose pack Guarana, 50g for \$8.50, 100g for \$15, p&p \$3, 1 kg, \$127.50, p&p \$10. Send money order/cheque to: Better Health Products, PO Box 269, (Mallala Road), TWO WELLS, SA 5501. Ph: 085-202-377 (day or evening).

CROWN WOODSTOVE, enamel, excel condition, \$350. BRISBANE. Ph: 07-824-6106 AH.

UFO INVESTIGATIONS. Have you had a close encounter? We are researchers with over 20 years experience in the field. We welcome all reports and will treat your sighting with full confidentiality. Contact: UFO, PO Box 943, ASHFIELD NSW 2131, or ph: 02-799-6843. HOMOEOPATHICS/BACHFLOWER REMEDIES. Australian bushflower essences. Write or phone for mail order catalogue. The Natural Remedy Company, PO Box 1060(G), DEVONPORT Tas 7310. Ph: 004-246-168.

EVENING PRIMOSE OIL 19ml oil dropper top \$5, 50ml screw top \$12, 60ml dripper top \$12, 200ml screw top \$38, 200g granules \$4, 100g (10% EP oil) cream \$7. 100g (8% EP oil, 2% teatree oil) cream \$7. P&P \$3. 1000ml EP oil \$135, P&P \$10. Money order/cheque to: Better Health Products, Box 269, TWO WELLS, SA 5501. Ph: 085-202-377.

FOR SALE, BIOLET COMPOSTING TOILET, about 3 years old, good condition. \$800. Contact: Amber, PO Box 201, CHURCH POINT, Sydney 2105, or ph: 02-9997-3078 weekends or after 8 pm weekdays.

## HANDCRAFTS

FRAGRANT CRAFT SUPPLIES direct from source - potpourris (botanical & gemstone), fragrances (inc similar to Chanel, Opium, etc.), botanicals (roses, lavender, orris, etc.), books, fragrant gifts, etc. We supply from beginner to chain store with great quality products at prices as low as \$14.40/kg (potpourri), or visit our extensive, centrally located showroom/factory outlet ... Nature's Workshop, PO Box 53, NORTHCOTE 3070. Ph: 03-482-2677, fax: 03-481-1393.

STEINER WALDORF TYPE DOLLS kit, contains everything to make your own 33cm doll using natural fibres. Kit \$25 incl P&P, extra \$10 for pure wool filling: T Harvey, PO Box 654, CLOVERDALE 6105.

NATURAL COLOURED WOOL TOPS - Scoured & carded, quick & easy to spin, no waste! Variety of shades. \$25 per kg + post. For stock list, send SAE to: 'Shilah', PO Box 295, DRYSDALE 3222.

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## HANDCRAFTS

ESSENTIAL OILS, POTPOURRI & natural products – for all aromatherapy & fragrant craft work. We are the manufacturers & suppliers of raw materials for making massage oils, soaps, cosmetics & household products. Our extensive range includes: 100% pure & natural essential oils, absolutes, fragrances, vegetable oils, gums, waxes, extracts, potpourri, herbs, spices, pottery & containers. Buy from us direct, small or bulk sizes & save with our low prices. Write for FREE mail order catalogue to: Auroa, 39A Melverton Drive, HALLAM 3803. Ph: 03-796-4833, fax: 03-796-4966. Or visit our shop at 86 Burwood Rd, HAWTHORN 3122, ph: 03-818-2676.

THREAD BUNDLES, stranded cotton in bundles of 100, 8m skeins in assorted colours, \$29 post-free in Aust. Bankcard, Mastercard, Visa, money orders & chqs. Excel buys for schools, weavers & needleworkers. Arty & Crafty, PO Box 40, DAW PARK 5041.

WEAVING LOOMS, Lightweight 20 cm (8 in), 4 shaft sample loom specially designed for students, advanced weavers. Fully assembled with 4 reeds, 8, 10, 12, 15 dent. \$135 + postage/freight. Arty & Crafty, PO Box 40, DAW PARK 5041. Mastercard, Visa, Bankcard, cheques.

CANDLE MAKING KIT, contains 3 kg wax, four dye disks, wicking, instruction leaflet & mould sufficient to make twelve 50mmx100mm candles. Great gifts & wonderful hobby. \$28 includes postage. Send to: Elizabeth Candles, 1575 Portarlington Rd, DRYSDALE 3222.

ARE YOU ALLERGY OR ECZEMA PRONE? Have super-sensitive skin? In a synthetic world discover the REAL benefits of Tasmanian leatherwood honey care – luxurious handmade organic skincare, Tasmania's FRESH alternative. Handmade with care & pride using only Tasmanian leatherwood beeswax, honey & bio-dynamic Australian oils, flower waters, pure essential oils etc. NO petrochemicals (sorbolene, synthetics, chemicals, colours, preservatives). Earth safe – affordable – effective. Send SAE for catalogue to: Tasmania's Fragrant Earth, 3/328 Murray St, HOBART 7000. Ph: 002-344-259.

BEADS! BEADS! BEADS! Unique selections of handmade glass, metal and wooden beads. Also findings, threads and kits avail. Cost \$8 for samples, colour copy and info. Write to: Tsunami, PO Box 29, MARGARET RIVER 6285.

HERBAL SOAP KITS: Make your own soap, avoiding the use of dangerous ingredients such as caustic soda – the Moonlight Herbal Soap Kit uses pure natural soap powder which contains no dyes, perfumes or additives. The natural soap powder is safe on sensitive skin and breaks down completely in the environment. Kit comes complete with herbs, fragrant oil and instruction booklet. We also stock a range of natural craft supplies including beeswax candle kits, potpourri starter kits, plus a wide range of potpourris, botanicals, fixatives, fragrant oils, accessories, etc. For your copy of our latest catalogue please send

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See page 69 for details

business size SAE to: Moonlight Fragrant Supplies, PO Box 684S, MT WAVERLEY Vic 3149.

## FOOD AND KITCHEN

POLLEN, NO ADDITIVES, 450g sample pack \$9, 1.9kg pack \$32.50, 4.7kg pack \$65, 14kg drum \$175. Prices include p&p. JM Read, 8 River St, MURRAY BRIDGE 5253.

HOME STONE FLOUR MILLS – mill your own stoneground wholemeal flour for cakes & bread at home with a Retsel Little Ark stone flour mill. Endorsed by Housewives Assoc. Write for catalogue to: Retsel Distributors, PO Box 712, DANDENONG 3175, encl 3 postage stamps. Ph: 03-795-2725. Distributor enquiries welcome.

MAKE YOUR OWN WINE from fruit. Our 'Home Wine Outfit' (with booklet) is avail at \$49.95 incl postage. Ingredients & small equipment also avail separately. (SAE for details). Country Winemakers, PO Box 438, CASTLEMAINE 3450. Ph: 054-232-152.

## GARDEN AND ORCHARD

TOBACCO SEED. Organically grown (Virginian), cultivation & curing notes incl. Send \$5 to Lyn O'Brien, C/- PO, BARMAH 3639.

EARTHWORMS for soil improvement. \$15/1000. Includes care instructions & postage Australia wide. Squworms Worm Farm (GR), The Gorge, FINCH HATTON, 4756. Ph: 079-583-359.

COMPREHENSIVE CATALOGUE Australian Native Seeds. 1800 species. Price \$6 posted. Bliss Partnership, 'The Cedars', BUNDARRA 2359.

SEEDS OF UNUSUAL, useful Asian vegies, subtropical fruits, herbs, spices, fragrances, curiosities, cottage garden flowers suit hot weather. Open pollinated. Easy grow. Seeds \$1 pkt, plants \$2.50 ea. Mail order only, no visitors please. For list send 3 stamps to Lorraine Blaney, Wallace Rd, BEACHMERE 4510.

EARTHWORMS, the 'speedy breeder compost worm' revolutionises your compost & transforms your garden. Just \$15 per 1000 worms. Price includes postage Aust wide & pamphlet on worm care. Wholesale prices \$40 per kg. Freight extra. Wormborough Farm, PO Box 794, TAREE 2430. Ph: 065-539-633.

COMPANION PLANTING CHART. Over 90 vegetables, herbs & fruits, including plants as insect repellants. Sow When Chart. Suggested sowing times for 100 vegetables, herbs & flowers. Mail order \$5 each + \$2.50 p&p (up to five copies). Plum Products (G) RMB 2907 BRUTHEN, 3885.

TREEGUARDS all shapes/sizes from under 10 cents each. Bamboo stakes & weedmats. International Reforestation Supplies, RMB 8600, BAIRNSDALE. Ph/fax: 051-579-404.

GROW YOUR OWN TOBACCO. Kit contains seeds & info incl how to grow & cure. \$20. Peter Gray, 59 Hinchinbrook Rd,

BURRINGBAR 2483. Ph: 066-771-697.

'NEW ORGANIC RESOURCE GUIDE' – Everything you need to know about everyone in the organic industry. A must for those with the first one. Order NORG and get a free copy of the first resource guide, \$6 posted. *Seed Production For The Home Vegetable Garden*, A Barry, our best seller, great for the new gardeners who want to save seeds, but are not sure how, \$4 posted. From: The Henry Doubleday Research Association. Cheques or money orders made out to HDRA. Post to: Mrs Linda Hanlon, 254 Yarramundi Lane, AGNES BANKS 2753. Booklist also avail with an SAE. TAGASASTE SEED, autumn/spring planting. \$1.25/pkt \$1.50 p&p. (\$10 for 10 pkts). N Polito, Box 360, RENMARK 5341.

TRADITIONAL SEEDS, Native WA seed for all amenity, rehabilitation & project planting. Send SAE for free lists. PO Box 715, BUSSELTON 6280. Ph: 097-541-919. Fax: 097-521-399.

RAINFOREST SEED COLLECTORS' national link-up – buy, sell or grow local seed. \$12 or \$8 conc for quarterly newsletter: Rainforest Seed Collective Inc, PMB BELLINGEN 2454. Ph: 066-552-233.

EARTHWORMS, Landsborough Earthworms can supply any quantity anywhere. Specialising in waste management for home or industry. For further info contact us at 38 Maleny Rd, LANDSBOROUGH 4550, phone & fax 074-941-512, mobile 015-588-579.

RUSSIAN GARLIC Certified Organic BFA 429 'A' – 5 cloves for \$5 + \$1.30 postage: produces 5-8 cloves/250g bulb; plant autumn. P&I Doff, M/S 84, YANDINA 4561.

HUNDREDS OF HARDY HERBS, perennials & shrubs avail by mail order. All plants \$2 each, + many cut-price collections, new list now avail. Send 3x45c stamps to: Flowers, Leaves & Spines, RMB 2743, MARYBOROUGH 3465. Ph: 054-614-390.

GRAFTED MANGO TREES. Order now for July. \$10. Commercial & exotic varieties incl Thai green eating. Ph: 077-778-773.

EARTHWORMS, IMPROVE your soil providing healthier plants, crops & FREE fertiliser. Contact us for FREE info on worms. We have the most comprehensive publication list avail on this subject. Worm World, PO Box 204 GR, ROLLINGSTONE 4816. Ph: 077-707-001.

TOP QUALITY ORGANIC TOBACCO SEED (min 60 plants). Plot or pot grown. City or country Grass Rooters can cultivate with ease. Full instructions for striking, growing, harvesting, drying, curing & cutting. Easy techniques. Simple leaf press plans. Seed saving procedures. All you need for tobacco self-suff forever. Ongoing advice if required. Full cost (incl p&p) \$14.50. Contact: Pete Bradbury, C/- Hillhaven Growers, PO Box 65, EIDSVOLD 4627. Ph: 071-651-484.

EARTHWORMS – Learn how to breed them for gardening, composting, fishing. Free booklist from WormWide Books, Box 603(G), MOOLOOLABA 4557.

Make Your Editor Smile –  
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## GARDEN AND ORCHARD

PIGEON PEA SEED, legume. Ph: 074-491-882.

NON HYBRID VEGETABLE & herb seeds. \$1.30 packet. Catalogue from Grandpa's Shed, Old Lorne Rd, DEANS MARSH 3235. Ph: 052-363-320.

## COURSES

CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES. Diploma & certificate programmes, professionally recognised. Learn for personal interest or business practice. Select one brochure from: Aromatherapy, Vitamin & Nutrition therapy, Traditional Folk Medicine, Animal Medicine (The 'Green' Vet), Psychic Healing, Pre-school Childcare (Nanny-Minder), Safety & Security Counselling, Personal Psychic Development, Traditional Wicca, Wiccan Home Studies, PO Box 138, SURRY HILLS 2010. Ph: 02-319-6166 bus hrs only.

DOWSING, a definitive home-study course in radiesthesia, dowsing & radionics for those with enquiring minds! Rediscover the lost art of using natural radiations ecologically. Over 200 pages of comprehensive notes covering health, environmental & agricultural applications of this ancient art. The Academy of Natural Therapies, 273 Taree St, BURLEIGH HEADS, 4220. Ph: 075-934-650. Phone or write for a free brochure.

MAKE FRIENDS WORLDWIDE – learn at home the international language ESPERANTO. Personal postal tuition from \$23, info free. John Moore, 7 Pelican St, EMU PARK, Qld 4702.

HERBAL MEDICINE. The School of Herbal Medicine, estab in Australia in 1985, offers a one year home-study course. For details, write to: PO Box 2310, TOOWOOMBA 4350.

HUNTER-NEWCASTLE PERMACULTURE. Courses at permaculture demonstration farm. Emphasis on practical use of permaculture tailored to individual situations. Property advisory services avail. Ph: June Andersen, 049-389-528, PO Box 22, PATERSON 2421. PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE, temperate climate regions. Easter '95, 15th-24th April. Certificate course – fully accommodated. Only 20 places avail. Tutors: Vries & Hugh Gravestein. Venue: 'Willuna', Chiltern – NE Victoria. Contact with SAE: V Gravestein, RMB 1130, CHILTERN 3683.

'NEW' PERMACULTURE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES: Introductory, Design certificate, PLUS. Courses tailored to meet your interests/needs/time/mobility. \$15 (refunded upon enrolment) full details. 'Permaculture Visions', 280 Cordeaux Rd, MT KEMBLA 2526.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE. Set in the tropical highlands (Malanda, Atherton Tablelands near Cairns). April 18-21. Write with SAE to: Rene and Lorraine van Raders, Green Piece Organic Garden, Box 389, MALANDA 4885. Ph: 070-965-138.

CHEAP HOUSING – Mud brick workshops – intensive theoretical & practical sessions – \$130 (incl food). Friday evening – Sunday. Write: Earthways, WOLLOMBI 2325.

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DEADLINES: GR108 – FEBRUARY 24TH  
GR109 – APRIL 24TH

PERMACULTURE MELBOURNE, Permaculture Design Certificate Course for Urban Areas. March-May 1995. Application of permaculture design methods to the urban environment, with goal of creating more productive, resilient & sustainable urban settlements. Will run over six alternate weekends, with an introductory evening on Friday March 10. Optional public talks by guest speakers will be scheduled for Friday evenings during the course. Course will comprise a range of lectures, workshops & presentations by experienced permaculture practitioners, & incl visits to a number of practising permaculture properties. Emphasis on practical design exercise & experience. COST: \$450 – incl lunches, morning & afternoon teas (payment by installments may be negotiated). To register: forward \$100 to Permaculture Melbourne. PREREQUISITE: A requirement for registration is the completion of an Introduction to Permaculture course or relevant experience/qualifications in a related field (eg horticulture, architecture). ENQUIRIES: Permaculture Melbourne 03-853-6828. Margi Jackson, 03-399-9707. Graeme George, 059-625-070.

## LIVESTOCK

RARE OUTDOOR PIGS. Wessex Saddleback, weaners & breeding stock available. Contact E & H Clare, PO Box 546, CABOOLTURE 4510. Ph: 074-968-271.

ENVIRONMENTALLY ADJUSTED CATTLE for sale. These cattle have never been contaminated with any dips, sprays, hormone growth promotants or insecticides: Cow & calf – \$1200. Cows – \$1000. Heifers – \$800. Steers – \$800. Contact: Greg or Kerry, 077-885-506.

## HOLIDAYS

NATURAL HEALTH rejuvenation haven. Situated in a quiet rural bushland setting in the foothills of the Border Ranges of ntn NSW. Featuring: healthy lifestyle education, nutritional instruction, food preparation, vegan dishes, raw juice cleanse & detoxification programme, colonic therapy, steam baths, ensuited bedrooms, comfortable accom. The Retreat, GREVILLIA 2474. Ph: 066-364-275. PERMACULTURE, dinner, bed & breakfast, knowledge & food at the Gravestein's farm – 3pm to 10 am. \$80 pp or \$150 p/couple. Booking essen, one month ahead. Practical experiences on site. Contact with SAE to: V. Gravestein, RMB 1130, CHILTERN 3683, or ph: 057-261-596.

HOMESTAY AT CRYSTAL WATERS Permaculture Village, guided tours of the first community designed according to the principles of permaculture. K Spencer, 24 Crystal Waters, MS16 MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-725.

LA MANCIA HEALTH CENTRE, Lismore.

For help with obesity, stress, chronic fatigue, smoking etc or have a healthy holiday. From \$390 pw. For brochures ph: 066-295-138.

FARM HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE: the opportunity to participate in small acreage intensive farming in a peaceful rural setting. Private, 2 b/r cabin; pet cows, calves, ducks, yabby dams, bushwalks in adj state forest, abundant native birds. Rates from \$180 per weekend. Booking essen. Contact: Fiona, RSD R840, GRENVILLE 3352. Ph: 053-414-526 Ballarat.

STOKERS COTTAGE – Experience the country as the settlers did in our charming cottage nestled on a fern-lined creek. Tranquillity & birdlife surround you as you relax on the verandah. Stokers cottage has plenty to offer with scenic drive, close proximity to Mt Warning, historical Murwillumbah township & the exciting Tweed Coast. Complimentary Devonshire tea. Reasonable rates. Phone Marina for details, 066-779-508.

LEARN TO HEAL your body, mind & spirit. Lifeorce Holidays Australia presents a unique invaluable journey into new dimensions amongst the timeless healing energy of beautiful tropical Magnetic Island, off the Great Barrier Reef. This SIX DAY PACKAGE reveals the secrets of the universe whilst relaxing on sun-drenched beaches & walking alongside huge majestic granite boulders that nurture the Island's abundant fauna. Included in your holiday is daily meditation, sunset & sunrise walks, two-day intensive workshop, six nights accom, snorkelling over coral garden, ferry & bus & much more. For a holiday that will last a lifetime. Ph free call: 1-800-804-427 for more info.

MALDON, HOLIDAY FARMHOUSE, 8 km from town centre, situated on broad, scenic acres. Fully SC, sleeps 8. All electric facilities. Has just been fully renovated & refurnished. Air conditioned, ample undercover car parking. Maldon is Australia's first Notable Town, classified by the National Trust. Ph: 'Merrilands', 054-752-342.

CHRISTMAS CREEK, LAMINGTON. Two b/r secluded cabin. Magnif views, r/forest, bushwalking, abundant birdlife, linen supplied. Ph: 075-448-166.

GETAWAY TO VICTORIA'S FIRST Eco-Solar Retreat. Peaceful secluded cosy cabin accom set amongst 6 ac of natural native gardens. Solar power & pure underground water. Kangaroos search for food amongst the adj olive plantation. Blue wrens, honeyeaters & many other birdlife at arm's length. Clean air, crystal clear skies & rosy sunsets await the seeker of a revitalised lifestyle. Enjoy the outdoors – fishing, bushwalking, or just sit on the timber railed verandah sipping a glass of wine, watching the blue wren feeding on the lush lawn. Private BBQ. Linen provided. Where is this secret hideaway? Whispering Pines Retreat, Little Desert Nat Pk via DIMBOOLA. Ph for brochure: 053-891-122/891-847.

Please print your ad clearly  
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## SERVICES OFFERED

**THE PRIMAL PLACE.** The transpersonal perspective holds that there is an essential unity underlying the diversity of humanity & the material world. The transpersonal vision is one in which compassion, love & responsibility are experienced for all forms of consciousness, & a global ecological vision of all life. The transpersonal experience enables us to contact & integrate aspects of ourselves & discover whatever dormant ability & potential that is unique to you but have lost touch with. Rediscovering those lost aspects of ourselves that continually intrude & spoil our enjoyment, pleasure & success of our own lives can bring about a profound & deeply meaningful state of 'being'. A new sensory awareness. A new consciousness. There is another way to 'be'. Those repressed aspects of ourselves inordinately effect us all of our adult lives & are expressed in other ways; discontentment, depression, anxiety, fear, nervous habits, isolation, loneliness, obsessional work & projects, use of drugs, aggression, anger, sexual dysfunction, inability to assert oneself, inability to relax & feel real pleasure. And in our r/ships. They also show themselves in a multiplicity of chronic psychosomatic complaints. We can be in a constant search, always in the wrong place. The transpersonal dynamic experience enables us to find the realms of the human unconscious to the gateway of personal transformation. Sooner or later we each must face ourselves honestly. Who we are. Where we came from. To what are we travelling towards. The Primal Place, 44 Curnow St, GOLDEN SQUARE 3555. Ph: 054-413-683.

**ASTROLOGICAL FERTILITY CHARTS.** Find out your monthly period of maximum fertility. Three years personal calendar (lunar-phase cycle). For more info, Astrobe Charts Service, PO Box 1262, COFFS HARBOUR 2450. Ph: 066-534-676.

**ASTRO-MAPPING.** Order your personal Astro-mapping kit and find out the best geographical places for love, success, happiness & relocation. Send name, address, date, time & place of birth + \$50 to Astrobe, Box 1262, COFFS HARBOUR, to receive maps & info booklet. For more info call 066-534-676.

**HUMAN DESIGN ANALYST.** Where are you heading? Who were you in previous lives? It helps to know. Cost \$40. For more info write: Butterfly Typing, PO Box 334, EDGE HILL, 4870, with your time-place-date of birth + sample of handwriting. Efficient, personal service. Fax: 070-322-008.

**HOME PLANS.** 90 plans for handcrafted homes & workshops of mud brick, rammed earth, stone & pole frame construction. Mail \$58 for *The Earth Builders Construction Detail & Plan Catalogue Volume 1*, to: John Barton, Building Designer, 31 Sharp Street, NEWTOWN, Geelong 3220, or ph: 052-224-249 for fixed quote to draw/document your home plan.

**ALLERGY TESTING,** 150 items tested using your hair sample. Send name, address, phone number, sample and \$70 to: Maureen

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Harmony, naturopath, The Centre of Healing Therapies, 203 Brisbane St, DUBBO 2830. Ph: 068-820-211.

**BIORHYTHM CHARTS** can help you forecast your daily physical, emotional & intellectual cycles. You can be in better control of your life with this special information. Especially helpful for partner compatibility cycles – when you are at your best together! A full year Biorhythm Chart & info package is now avail for only \$10 each or \$15 for 2, incl postage. Send your name, full date of birth, return address, with cheque or M/O to: BIORHYTHMS, PO Box 751, BEGA NSW 2550. Ph: 064-927-205.

**SPIRITUAL CARD READINGS,** 10 questions answered also. Send \$30 to: Sonya Caslick, 42 Ramsey St, EAST LAUNCESTON 7250. You will receive a hand-written reply with love.

**GARDEN & LANDSCAPE DESIGNER,** A Bryce. Gardens professionally designed & drawn. Write to: A Bryce, Commercial Rd, TARNAGULLA 3551, or ph: 054-387-427.

**ECODOME** – Ecological domestic architecture. Committed to passive solar temperature stability, optimisation of aspect & orientation, protection from prevailing winds, minimal ecological impact determining selection of materials, waste water disposal, excavation. Integrated landscape design, technical advice to the owner builders, aesthetics, individuality & tranquillity. Phone us for a free appraisal of your site & requirements. Ph: 03-481-4332.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**NEW! OUTRIGGER FISHING CANOES** for \$100? U-build, u-sell. Learn how. It's fun, fitness and profit. Amazing new designs, fishing, sailing, building methods. For info send stamp to: Canoworld, PO Box 466, MERMAID BEACH 4218.

**PERFECT HOME BUSINESS!** High income potential without inventory, selling or paperwork. FREE info. DM Walsh (Dep G), Box 219, Nunawading, 3131.

**RESTAURANT OR CRAFT BUSINESS** – Coonabarabran. We (Skywatch Observatory Pty Ltd) have just opened a new tourist attraction on the road to Warrumbungle Nat Pk and Siding Spring Observatory which together attract over 50,000 visitors annually. The main feature of our development is a public observatory (the professional observatories are closed to the public at night) and associated science-based activities, housed in a lovely mud brick building. We aim to attract school and tour groups as well as the general public – we will be open 2pm – 10pm daily. We also have approval from Council to incl a cafe/restaurant and a number of craft activities in the development – pottery, opal cutting, blacksmithing, painting, leatherwork, wood-turning, etc. If you are a chef or have a craft, would like to run your own business for whatever hrs suit you and would like to move

to a lovely little country town, you may care to phone Max Mapleson on 068-422-425. Please note that there are GR – type people in the area and that there are small acreages for sale adj our site.

**ACCOMMODATION IN LARGE CARAVAN** on peaceful 30 ac Hunter Valley bush block avail in exchange for labour, sharing house with 2 others. Vegetarian, n/s preferred. Ph: 049-382-036.

**MAKE EXTRA INCOME** – any location. For free details & bonus offer send large SAE to: Carlene Hulin, GR, Young Rd, GRENFELL 2810.

**ETHICAL, FINANCIAL SUPPORTER(S)** required for unique consciousness raising board game. \$80,000 to \$120,000 range. Market researched & tested over 2 years. Sound oppor for venturer to involve with re-awakening old wisdom in modern minds. Call Kim on 03-383-5304 for further info.

**SEPARATE ACCOMMODATION** with electricity, food & heating avail to woman/women in exchange for gardening on organic farm owned & operated by women. Ph: Kaye or Elaine, 03-710-1703, or write Box 88, HURSTBRIDGE 3099.

**PROPERTY OWNER SEEKS SUPERED** retiree single male interested in rural living, working & establishing vineyard western slopes Strathbogs. Joint ownership offered. Genuine callers will leave message for return call. Ph: 057-903-327, or fax 057-903-328.

**SAVE \$ ON PERSONAL PURCHASES** of food, fuel & other items. Easy to use electronic members' card. Extra \$ bonuses if you introduce new members. Obligation free details. Please send SAE to: #SAVE/GR, PO Box 1090, PRESTON 3072.

## CLUBS

**AUSTRALIAN HERB SOCIETY.** Members receive quarterly magazine, seed from seed bank free, access to tape lending library, write: the Secretary, PO Box 110, MAPLETON 4560.

**NATIONAL ALLERGY ASSOCIATION** of Australia (NAAA). Information, counselling, newsletter. For info & membership write to: PO Box 280, PARRAMATTA 2124.

**AFFILIATED DONKEY SOCIETIES** OF Australia. For info on membership, magazines & help avail write to: Mrs Pam Newton, PO Box 63, Hurstbridge, 3099, and you will be contacted by the representative in your state.

**PENFRIEND CLUB.** International club for all ages anywhere. For more info send SAE to: PO Box 3, ROZELLE 2039.

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**ALTERNATIVE FARM DISPLAY,** in conjunction with Deniliquin 2 day show. Show 4th & 5th March, Farm Display 5th. Displays incl: yabbies, wild rice, native plants, water chestnuts, Belgium Blue cattle, crafts & more. For info ph Secretary, Geraldine O'Hare, 058-811-537, or 058-811-694.

To avoid disappointment ensure  
your ad meets our deadline



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DEADLINES: GR108 – FEBRUARY 24TH  
GR109 – APRIL 24TH

## CALENDAR EVENTS

**BALINGUP SMALL FARM FIELD DAY** IN WA has become the most important event on the calendar for landholders with small acreages & people dreaming about owning their own piece of paradise in that state, on April 22 '95. Attractions will incl permaculture displays, a diverse mix of animals (alpacas, Dexter cows, angora goats & a variety of poultry), tree farming & planting, machinery suitable for small farms, + cottage industry market stalls selling WA made items. Talks on running your own small business, growing berries & living & working with llamas will also feature. For more info: Diny Monaghan, PO Box 100, BALINGUP 6253. Ph: 097-641-061.

**GROW ORGANIC '95**, March 11-12-13, Labour Day weekend, Bruthen Recreation Reserve, speakers, workshops, farm visits. Topics incl: organic gardening, soils, permaculture, organic sheep farming, beef production, pioneer skills, mixed farming, commercial organic egg production. Day visitors welcome, registration – \$35 (3 days), children free. For more info write to: East Gippsland Organic Agriculture Association, PO Box 1263, BAIRNSDALE 3875. Ph: 051-571-586, or 051-444-396.

**HARVEST WEEK AT HERONSWOOD**. On display the largest complete trial of vegetables grown in Australia from asparagus to watermelon. A large collection of heirlooms will be compared with equivalent standard varieties or hybrids by Will Trueman, PhD. Results will be published in spring, 1995. Peninsula wine & food served in the garden where the cottage garden will be in full bloom. Monday, Feb 27 – Sunday March 5. Historic house open on Sat – Sun, Mar 4 & 5. 105 Latrobe Parade, DROMANA, 3936 – 70 minutes from Melbourne – Melway map 159 C9.

**HORTICULTURE & GARDEN FIELD DAY**, 6 May 1995, Bowring Horticulture & Garden Field Day. Our first two Field Days were a great success in bringing people from the horticulture & garden trade together with the gardening public. The increasing interest in the Field Day shown by exhibitors, garden clubs & individuals across southern NSW, the ACT and Victoria should result in an even better day for 1995. For more info contact: Keith Green 06-227-6058.

## PUBLICATIONS

**'AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO'**. How to grow, cure, treat & cut your own. A well researched book by John Van der Linden. Send \$12 (postage included) to Lyn O'Brien, C/- PO, BARMAN 3639.

**'AUSTRALASIAN HEALTH & HEALING'**. Journal of alternative medicine. Australia's major health care quarterly, emphasising self-healing & prevention of illness through measures which raise body defences. Sold at most newsagents & health shops, \$4.95 ea, & by subscription, \$23.40 or \$29.90 with *Health & Healing Newsletter* per 4 issues (1 yr).

Write: Australasian Health & Healing, 29 Terrace St, KINGSLIFF 2487.

**'NEXUS NEW TIMES'** magazine is an independent publication bringing you the essential facts behind today's news. We describe new ways of living which improve your mental & physical health & enable you to thrive in the late 20th century. Take part in positive change – subscribe now! \$25 pa. Nexus New Times, C/- PO, MAPLETON 4560. **'NIMBIN NEWS'** is a co-operatively run access magazine with articles & info from Nimbin & other areas. We cover concerns relevant to alternative lifestyles & others looking for the most sustainable way. We are one of the longest running alternative magazines & the Nimbin bio-region is at the forefront in the development of sustainable systems. As networkers we scan many magazines for suitable & scarce info for our readers. Subscription: 12 editions for \$25. Sample copy \$2.50. PO Box 209, NIMBIN 2480.

**'THE OWNER BUILDER' MAGAZINE**. Want to be a successful owner builder? *The Owner Builder* magazine has plans, money saving ideas, advice & articles on successful owner builders. *The Owner Builder* magazine is avail from newsagents or by subscription. \$24 for 6 issues. For more info write PO Box 974, BENDIGO 3550.

**'THE PERMACULTURE EDGE'** magazine for current info on applied permaculture worldwide. Internationally subscribed & sourced: agriculture, economics, politics, sociology for the future. Subscribe now \$16, 4 issues. Permaculture Nambour, PO Box 650, NAMBOUR 4560.

**'THE SEED SAVERS' HANDBOOK'** by Michel & Jude Fanton, selling like hotcakes. Don't miss out, order today. \$23 post paid. Box 975, BYRON BAY 2481.

**'TAROT FOR YOURSELF'** (mini-book), *Living Tarot – The Intuitive Journey*. These books by Ann Walker + many more on herbs, animals, Celtic Lore, palmistry also audio tapes & tarot cards from: 'Broomtail', 171 Eaglehawk Rd (PO Box 62), LONG GULLY 3550. Send for your mail order catalogue now. **ANIMAL BOOKS – 'YOUR DONKEY'**, *Cats' Company* & many more by post. Lists from: Broomtail Publications 171, Eaglehawk Rd (PO Box 62) LONG GULLY 3550.

**BOOKS. NEW & OLD**. Australiana, lifestyle, Pacific, biography, horticulture, gardening, outdoors. Lists avail. BA & JM Wallace, Box 325 PORTLAND 3305.

**'CYBLIS – THE LEGEND OF TIME'** A fantastic inspirational poetic love story drama that not only will inspire your own life but will uplift your hearts. You will understand the reality of true love and comprehend its meaning through pure delight as the dance unfolds the celestial magic of love. For your copy of *Cyblis* please send \$14 plus \$3.50 p&p (NZ

\$5.50) to Lauyan's International Enterprise, PO Box 696, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153. Ph: 02-894-9003.

**NEED TO FIND A JOB? *It's So Easy To Get A Job***, is a guide booklet on 10 easy & effective methods to finding casual to permanent employment: Send \$5 (includes post & packing) to: Big Tinderry Publishing, PO Box 763, QUEANBEYAN 2620. Ph: 06-236-3256. **FREE SAMPLE COPY:** of colourful, 64-page, quality textile magazine, *Textile Fibre Forum*. This publication covers all the textile arts in the Australian region & includes New Zealand plus an international component. Just write to: TAFTA, PO Box 38, THE GAP, Qld 4061, and send \$1.80 in new postage stamps to receive your free sample copy. You'll love this magazine. No obligation. (Subscription price is \$18.50/yr for 3 issues; \$36/2 years).

**BACK COPIES GR & EG**, \$2 each. Ph: 063-742-180, anytime except Friday pm & Saturdays.

**'LIFE FORCE NEWS'**, monthly FREE! Meditation, reincarnation, yoga, health, vegetarian recipes & more! Ph: 02-363-2753. PO Box 765, DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028.

**'EARTH GARDEN' MAGAZINES** nos 27 & 29, nos 31 to 48 inclusive. \$40 lot + postage. Ph: 054-752-342.

**'EARTH GARDEN' MAGAZINES** nos 32, 37, 39, 40, 41 & 43, + *Third Earth Garden Book*. \$20 lot + postage. Ph: 054-752-342.

**'OWNER BUILDER' MAGAZINES** nos 1 to 22 inclusive. \$60 lot + postage. Ph: 054-752-342.

**HOMESCHOOLERS** – creative teachers & childcarers. *Numero Mystika*, a manual on maths teaching for senior primary by Alan Whitehead, based on the Steiner spiritual-imaginative method. Send \$10 to: Golden Beetle Books, Box 481, MULLUMBIMBY 2482, or write for titles list.

**'DESIRE OF AGES'**: Life & teachings of Jesus offers: spiritual comfort & inspiration, personal growth & fulfillment as one develops a meaningful r/ship with the Creator & Saviour. Offers empowerment & personal spiritual transformation enabling one to live a life of service & make a contribution to the betterment of humanity. *Ministry of Healing*: Practising the Creator's love in the home & the community. *Great Controversy*: History, future & teachings of the Christian faith. Avail from: The Final Cry Ministries, Box 946, MANJIMUP 6258. Also avail, *Doctor Thrash Natural Health Remedy Books*. Price on application, average price for all above titles about \$12.

**'SMALLHOLDERS NETWORK'** – A forum for practical ideas & info, linking smallholders in Australia, Canada & US. Free contact & bartering ads. 6 issues \$10. Sample 4x45c postage stamps. Smallholders Network, PO Box 30, GLENORCHY, Tasmania 7010.

**EARTHWORMS** – Free comprehensive booklet from the specialists, WormWide Books, Box 603(G), MOOLOOLABA 4557.

**'GRASS ROOTS'** wanted. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10. Will pay top money. Edie, 071-631-703.

# GRASSIFIEDS

## PUBLICATIONS

**ALTERNATIVE PLANS & PRODUCTS 7TH EDITION CATALOGUE 1995.** The 7th edition of this popular catalogue is now avail. The catalogue contains a comprehensive listing of books, booklets, plans & infopacs covering alternative power generation, ethyl alcohol production, wind power, gas generation, solar stills, alternative housing plans, low voltage workshop set-up, appliance conversion, special batteries, mini work vehicle, construction plans, home based business, solar panel making & water pumps, water purification. Other titles include steam engine & methane, gas generator plans, electric vehicle plans, fuel cell construction, solar ovens & water heater plans, solar furnace, vortex tube plans, free energy machines & magnetic engines & generators. For the *Alternative Plans Catalogue* send \$5 to: Alternative Plans, PO Box 487, ASHGROVE 4060. 33 Woodview St, SAMFORD 4520.

## CONTACTS

### PLACING A CONTACT AD?

*If you do not wish your address to be published, you may prefer to have replies sent C/- PO Box 242, Euroa 3666 (our address) and we'll forward them (unopened) to you. There is a nominal charge of \$5 for this service, so please add this to the amount when calculating the cost of your Ad.*

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**SOMEWHERE ON THIS ISLAND**, marooned and fed up with the rat race, insincerity & living on her own, lives a fit, slim, feminine lady, around 20 to 33 (long hair is so attractive), single, no ties (*one young child OK*), whose nationality/financial/work status is irrelevant, who has an uncomplicated, broad-minded attitude to life, who wants & seeks a home, to live in the sth of NSW coastal countryside, and a decent man to share with in romance, friendship, companionship, start a family, have children, grow in love and grow 'old' with gracefully and with sensitivity. A lady with 'old style' moral sense, who's had enough of the 'feminist cult', who wants to share in an equal, non-sexist lifestyle without imposing change on the other. Not a rager, party animal or pub/club goer, but who prefers the privacy and tranquility of home. To go out for a meal, movie on occasion, walks, beach, visit a friend. A gentle lady (but with fortitude), who enjoys kids, gardens, chooks, vegies, games, reading, TV, poetry, arts/crafts, flowers, brac-a-brac, intelligent conversation, massage, fresh air, sunrise. A lady who is of a spiritual nature, *but not religious*. Dislikes loud people, football, drinks etc. A lady happy to share domestics/cooking, enjoys a nice bottle of wine, fresh food, lyrical music, candles, cuddles, affection, fires in win-

### PLACING AN AD? See page 69 for details

ter, driving into the bush, exploring, camping off the beaten track, quiet places, mountain streams, secluded beaches, fun, laughter, smiles, sense of the ridiculous. An understanding lady able to go with the flow, can handle life as it comes and be happy with an older man. A 41 yr old, healthy, young at heart, romantic rebel, who, although at times can be a bit of a recluse, is far from socially inept and is not a desperado, but who dislikes 9 to 5 work, prefers odd jobs, has own home on small acreage close to town, fenced yard for horse, open plan 3 b/r timber cottage, wide verandah, solar hot water, all amenities, beautiful views, wetlands, garden, trees, has no debts, is 6ft, 13 1/2 st, good looks, Irish/Scots decent, fair hair, broad shoulders and a great smile. Divorced 4 yrs, has regular access to very dear 7 yr old daughter. Has travelled widely overseas and Australia, prefers his 'old' car and an easy, happy-go-lucky, layback lifestyle. A light drinker, smokes 'rollies', enjoys vegetarian and meat dishes. Has a 'wacky', eccentric sense of humour. Lost his illusions/innocence on the harsher realities of life years ago but still remains an optimist. Believes in world peace, Mother Earth, is a pacifist, dislikes pubs, cheats, hypocrites, bullshit. Can be a bit blunt at times when speaking his mind, but means no harm, and grows in patience/tolerance. Is strong, loyal, caring, trustworthy, but is no 'angel'. He searches, however, for an angel, and having been 'burnt' in the past is now quite prepared to wait for her, or live alone where at least one does not have to justify one's lifestyle or invent stupid excuses to pacify the other. And so dear lady, wherever you may be, *and you're happy to relocate*, write to me. Please, OK, *enclose a recent photo*. I will do likewise in reply. And in conclusion if any feel unsure, unsafe, whatever, and wonder at meeting a companion this way, then let's not waste our time. No offence intended, but I wish to meet a positive lady who also wants to reach out. Wishing all a happy life. Replies to: 'The Rebel', Box 295, MORUYA 2537. GUY, THIRTY-SIX, enjoys the outdoors, bushwalking, canoeing, camping, travelling, self-suff, gardening, permaculture, n/s, vegetarian, seeks quiet, caring, nature-loving girl to share my life with. If you're interested please ph: Jeff, on 02-971-0703. MALE SIXTY-FIVE, 6' tall, semi-fit, living Central Tablelands of NSW, n/s, s/d, interests incl furniture restoration, gardening, fishing, wood working. Have own house on 2 ac. Seeks intelligent, down-to-earth lady for friendship and possible r/ship. Please write to: CA (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666. SOLO DAD, 37 yo, 6' tall, clean shaven with short dark hair, hazel eyes, not into pub, clubs or sports. I've never married, never smoked, never tried drugs. Now living on sml bush block on NSW sth coast with my 4 yo daughter & 1 dog. Currently starting from scratch, would like

to hear from n/s calm natured lady with broad sense of humour (one young child OK), who would welcome a quiet bush lifestyle. View to friendship & shared chores & expenses. Write to: AJM (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

MALE, DIVORCED, youthful 46 yo, acceptable looks, smoker, social drinker, disabled (arm doesn't work), temporary pensioner (claim to be settled), now living far nth coast Tablelands on 100 ac in a unique mud brick/timber cottage. Trying my hand at self-suff and permaculture, sharing with dogs, cats, poultry, ducks & native wildlife, and abundant fruit trees. House needs a woman's touch as does the owner, looking for a partner in life to share life together. Age not important, children welcome, no drugs. Ian B (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

WIDOW, FIFTY-NINE, seeking gent to 67. Likes gardening, cooking, knitting, and good game of cards. Joan (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

FOREST ACTIVIST/PACIFIST, 38 yo, into r/forests & permaculture nursery and planting. Seeks gentle, peaceful, loving woman to share life on new community in NE. Kids OK. Photo please. MJ (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

SINGLE GENTLEMAN 48, 184cm, 84 kg, n/s/d. Seeks lady companion/housekeeper, farm. Ph: 066-667-910.

OUTGOING - SINGLE MUM, 31 n/s, light s/d, live Monaro area. Love horse riding, snow & water skiing, dancing. Looking for male friend with similar interests. Write: Nicki (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

PAUL, THIRTY-SEVEN, n/s, cattle-breeding, antique-collecting farm dweller. Loves outdoor activities, music, animals. Requires honest, caring, mid-thirtyish woman with good sense of humour and & old-fashioned values for long-term r/ship. Contact Paul (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GOOD NATURED SYDNEY MALE, 35, seeks happy, attractive female 28-35 for friendship and view to perm r/ship. Emotionally and physically healthy, intelligent & successful in my career. I'm looking for someone to share nights out in the city and weekends on my Hunter property. Sincerity, kindness and a sense of humour are ready to be shared with a like-natured woman. Please reply: Steve C (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

FEMALE, YOUNG AT HEART, attractive, fifties, loves ballroom dancing, art, music, travel, simple life, n/s, s/d, independent, interested in personal growth, seeks genuine male companion. Meg Fogarty, C/- 136 Balemo Drive, OCEAN SHORES 2483.

SEEKING LOVER, FRIEND, pen-friend, ph pal, adult contact, or an occasional date? It is a gamble, but you can put the odds in your favour with 'The Co-operative Agencies'. The varied services of 'The Co-op' are pooled to give you a better chance of success. For free listing and service information, send long SAE to: Cherryll, Morticia's Manse, 42 Hinkler Pde, MAROOCHYDORE 4558.

## QUEENSLAND

LADY BIKER, 26 yo, 5'3", medium build, blue eyes, brown curly hair, light smoker, artistic, laid back, easy-going nature, Australian with off beat SOH, likes: Feasting on the word, motorbikes, real cars, trucks, real people, simple living, blues, C&W, my dog, creating. Have had a few wild adventures before seeing the light. I believe in Jesus, family, brotherhood, truth, freedom. Seeking a righteous man, with earthy good looks and an appreciation for life on two to eighteen wheels, to write, maybe meet, for friendship with view to sharing the above and more for the long haul. Someone whose past is exactly that. Reply with pic (if poss) tell me about yourself. Genuine replies only! Lady Biker (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

LONELY LEO LADY MID 50s, seeking genuine gent, about 6ft, over 13st. I like beards – longer the better, long hair, never moody, prefer no children, C&W or quiet music, beach walking, s/d, vegetarian, casual dressing, please send photo, will return same. All letters answered. Waiting to hear from you. Phyllis, PO Box 1507, Sydney St, MACKAY 4740.

MALE, THIRTY-SEVEN, recently widowed, seeks lady of good humour. I love good living, tolerate bad children and want another chance to enjoy the fruits of life including fun, sharing, and a little bit of luxury. Aaron Judd, 12 Unwin Drive, TOOWOOMBA 4352.

CHRISTIAN LADY, 47, love to meet Christian gentleman. Caring, loves animals, outdoors, life, fun & music. Professional lady seeking friendship & marriage. Replies to: Sue (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

CHRISTIAN MAN, 33yrs, wants born again Christian lady, intact all over, forgiving, faithful, considerate, extremely light with make-up, preferably Baptist. The Box Holder, PO Box 1286, MILTON 4064.

RURAL LIVING PENSIONER GENT, 64, seeks lady similar, genuine sincere, no ties, caring companionship, active, smoker, n/d. PO Box 128, KILCOY 4515.

GENTLE NATURED HAPPY LIBRAN MALE, 40, living on 30 ac bush, rose farm, old Queenslander house. Looking for slim, active, adventurous lady, 25-39 yrs. Lot 1, Sunnyside Dr, via PIALBA 4655.

III, MY NAME IS PAUL, in my 20s, 172cm, 60 kg, OK looking. I want to form a meaningful relationship with a lady who lives in the country anywhere in Aust. I'm self-suff, generous, loving. Write to: 3 Shakespeare Crt, CABOOLTURE 4510.

MAN, FIT, FORTY-FOUR, self-motivated, worker, honest, real, life-wise, easy-going, broad-minded, n/s, s/d, loving. Seeks the same in a feminine, motherly type woman, 28-33, to share a readymade family and lifestyle on acres in far nth. Sense of humour essential, no bad attitudes. Reply openly to: BB (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

MALE, YOUNG 44, 6 ft tall, slim, reasonable looks, honest, caring, seeks slim, younger female view perm r/ship to share easy-going lifestyle. I have nice house on scenic acreage, Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Harry (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

# GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR108 – FEBRUARY 24TH  
GR109 – APRIL 24TH

ARE YOU: FEMALE, unattached, slim, health-conscious, n/s, spiritually-aware? Do you prefer: quiet country living, good movies, nature, and relaxing music? Are you seeking a perm complementary partnership? If so a tall, slim, sensitive, honest, professional man, 46, Clark, would be pleased to hear from you. Clark (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MALE, FIFTY, SEEKS LADY, to 55, view long-term friendship/marriage. I have a beard, long hair, am not sm... Many and varied interests, don't drink, don't smoke, not into anything much. Have been on my own too long & need the company of a lady, who is a country girl, a bushie, any nationality. Disabled lady most welcome. Please write: Jim Murray, PO Box 173, GLENCOE 5291.

REBORN MIDLIFE, now 57, lady seeks re-marriage. Straight, tall, own home. No car. Ex – UK 1964. GOOLWA, SA. Ph: 085-551-683.

ENGLISHMAN, 48yrs, looking to relocate to Tasmania in 1995, seeks a woman, who would take on a sharing intimate r/ship. I would be most comfortable with a happy soul who has a modest nurturing streak. I take on most challenges in my life and as a result have had a few downturns. I am basically optimistic, environmentally and ethically sound and most times good company. All letters answered. David (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GENT, SINGLE, never married, early forties, down-to-earth, extremely patient, own land and house, loves animals and children. Seeks perm r/ship with woman 28-38, kids OK. Have phone, water, alternative power, and school bus past gate. I drink, smoke, swear, am not bald and love life. Have secure income and sense of humour. Please write with phone no to: MM (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

HAPPY, SLIM, FIFTIES, 5'11", male, looking for relatively easy-going lady, likes making friends easily. A touching & caring person, love to be active, dancing, camping out in the great outdoors, dining in & out sometimes, warm fires, the beach, likes occasional good wines, applies logical & practical thinking to problems, proud of culinary expertise, acting up. A committed friend, broad-minded, who enjoys life. A physiotherapist. Please contact: Richard (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

VEGETARIAN FEMALE 34, searching for that elusive male to share a dream. Enjoys good conversation, reading, music, the bush and growing things. Would like semi-self-suff lifestyle near the sea. Has 2 girls. Looking for interesting, fun loving, considerate, n/s male that still believes everything is possible. Kids OK. P.S would like to travel. Yvonne (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

YOUNG LOOKING GENT 50, own country home, n/s, n/d, good happy nature, honest, re-

liable, loving, seeks compatible female, sharing r/ship. All letters answered. CCC, PO Box 230, PETERBOROUGH 5422.

COUNTRY CONTACTS CLUB for lonely country persons. PO Box 230, PETERBOROUGH 5422. Free membership, free service. Send SAE for details.

## VICTORIA

MALE, 42 yrs, 5'11", 13½ st, with beard. Pensioner, own home & car, broad-minded, single, no children, n/s, s/d. Seeks love, trust and affection. Interests: wood turning, markets, music, crafts, home management, walks, beach, bush, touring, coffee shops. Prefer rural to semi-rural surroundings. DM (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

HI, MY NAME IS JEFF. I am 5'4", 10½ stone, age 41, single, never been married. I have brown hair & eyes, I am English, been in Oz for twenty years. I am not big in the male side of things, but it would be nice to have a female friend. I am interested in spiritual healing. Have a good sense of humour. My heart is in the right place. You can contact me on 03-725-7067. Hope to hear from someone, age open, or write to: Jeff (GR 107), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

BREAKAWAYS, NONPROFIT SINGLES GROUP for nonsmokers. Bushwalks, dine-outs, movies, outings. Melbourne and surrounds, ages 26-42. Further info: Stephen, 03-879-6247.

IN THE BLACK, there is some white; in the wrong, there is some right; in the dark; there is some light; in the blind, there is some sight. Prisoner 13½ yrs, 41 yo, looking for female penfriend. View to possible r/ship. The only things I have to bring to a r/ship are the intangibles, SOH, warm gentle nature and infinite compassion. Interests: gardening, reading, fishing. Eric Cahill, PO Box 114, COBURG 3058.

MALE, THIRTY-TWO, alternative lifestyle vegetarian with own house and land in country settlement, seeks the company of sensitive, sincere lady. Reply to: D McBain, PO Box 376, COLAC 3250. Ph: 052-351-403.

## OTHER

PENFRIENDS OVERSEAS/AUSTRALIA. Please send SAE, PO Box 3311, WESTON 2611. AUSTRALIA.

NEED TO CONTACT Divine Light Mission Friends, 'the name has changed'. Very tired fish ready to surrender. Trevor Walker, 219 Bell's Line of Rd, NORTH RICHMOND, NSW 2754.

Turn the page for a  
convenient form to use  
to write out your ad.



# GRASSIFIEDS

Please refer to page 69 for details on how to advertise

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|------------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Sender's Name .....                      |  | For issue no/s ..... |  |  |
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| ..... Postcode.....                      |  | Cost .....           |  |  |
| Cost for advertisements is 40c per word. |  |                      |  |  |
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## Recent Releases

On this page we present information about newly published books that we feel will interest readers, with details of prices and publishers. We no longer distribute books for other publishers so if you're interested in buying any of the books described here, please order them through your nearest bookstore.

### ★ FEATURE TITLE ★

#### MAKING MONEY FROM YOUR GARDEN – Pamela Odijk

Based on the author's own experience of gardening, value-adding to the produce, and selling both at market stalls and direct to the customer, this book is a mine of useful information. With a little bit of extra effort, and careful planning, keen gardeners can turn their hobby into a profitable business sideline. As well as describing how to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, flowers and nuts, there is valuable advice about marketing your produce, where to find customers, making products from your garden harvests and various related activities such as bee and poultry keeping and plant propagation.

A most useful chapter written by Herman Odijk discusses the business side of your venture, including relevant regulations, record keeping, taxation requirements and types of business structures.

Lists of relevant addresses and related recommended reading are an added feature. Disappointing though, is the lack of illustration. It is a subject which calls out for luscious colour photographs, both to complement and to break up the text. Many people will find the format of unrelieved text quite daunting. In spite of this I recommend it as a valuable resource for anyone with a garden who is wanting to make a little extra income.

P/b, 294pp, The Business Library, an Imprint of Information Australia, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000. RRP \$19.95.

#### SHEEP DISEASES (1), AND STOCK DISEASES (2), both by A Brightling.

Anyone keeping livestock, on a small or a large scale, will find these books invaluable additions to the farm reference library. Both are extremely comprehensive and lavishly illustrated to enable ease of diagnosis. Explanations are, for the most part, easily understood by the layperson. The sturdy hardcover binding will ensure that they stand up well to the years of frequent use they will inevitably receive.

- (1) H/b, 155 pp, Inkata Press, RRP \$54.95.
- (2) H/b, 313 pp, Inkata Press, RRP \$125.00.

#### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS FOR ART AND CRAFT – Gwen Elliot.

Both gardeners and craftspeople will welcome this lovely book with its plethora of ideas about how to use the leaves/blooms/seeds in your garden to create a range of unusual and distinctive craft items. Techniques are explained clearly and comprehensively and the book is well illustrated.

P/b, 148 pp, Hyland House, RRP \$24.95.

forcing people to re-evaluate their gardening ideas. This book is full of good ideas, practical suggestions and beautiful photographs to help people both maintain their existing gardens as much as possible, and incorporate more drought-tolerant plants and design ideas to reduce the impact of future droughts. Very useful.

P/b, 64 pp, Lothian Books, RRP \$12.95.

#### SMALL-SCALE PIG FARMING IN NEW ZEALAND – David Yerex.

To anyone considering adding a few pigs to the livestock on their smallholding this book is essential prereading. It clearly explains all you need to know before you start and could mean the difference between success or failure of your venture.

P/b, 64 pp, Farm Books, RRP \$NZ 16.95 + postage. contact: Farm Books, 'Ranglnul', Chamberlain Rd, RD8, Masterton, NZ.

#### HOW TO BUILD A CHEMICAL-FREE HOUSE – Janet Forster.

With the growing numbers of chemically sensitive people in our industrialised society, there are many who will benefit from this practical manual compiled from the author's own experience of building her house. It's written in a very readable anecdotal style and has a section of useful contact addresses of suppliers and support organisations.

P/b 128 pp, Kangaroo Press, RRP \$14.95.

#### THE HEALING GARDEN – Michael Bailes.

Shows the multitude of ways in which herbs can be used to prevent and control a range of health complaints. Arranged alphabetically with many charming black and white line drawings the book is as interesting as it is useful.

P/b, 122 pp, Kangaroo Press, RRP \$12.95.

#### FARMING IN PONDS AND DAMS – Nick Romanowski.

Aquaculture, both on a small and large scale, is a growing trend Australia-wide. This book is a step-by-step guide to getting started and keeping going and will help ensure the success of any aquaculture venture. Well illustrated and very comprehensive.

P/b, 212 pp, Lothian Books, RRP \$29.95.



# Poetry

## A SHINING LIGHT

*We are the light that shines  
burns within*

*We are only one speck  
in the universe*

*We are the essence of one joined  
only separated by birth  
We must return to the one.*

*We are deep within  
now's our time, join together  
hear the voice calling  
our time is near.*

*Your head hurts your heart aches  
this pain is love  
your body shivers  
it's time to leave, move on  
for we'll always be one.*

*I am the stars and sea  
I am the air you breathe  
For now your world looks real.*

*Outside the darkness  
inside there's light  
join the essence go deeper,  
deeper for we can become one.*  
Helen Wise.

## A MEDIEVAL MORNING

*Clear rippling morning, fences in order,  
sheep dotting the pasture, then my eye  
catches the medieval, astride the twentieth century  
barb wire –  
A silver hawk – majestic sweeping lines,  
processional white, arching a vigilant eye.  
The curved beak a sickle shape, waiting  
to scythe the air for hapless prey.*

Lorraine Marwood.

## SAND MOVED

*Push away waves of sand.  
A belt of green grass, trees  
and cultivated fields in  
the tracks of deserts.  
The sands marauded for centuries.  
Now they roll over each year  
in suspenseful nurturment.  
No more dust, but pollen  
and bugs and the like.  
Once desolate now lush  
pastures, smells of the brush.  
Once huge sandy lakes,  
now idyllic forests.  
Is this too going to be one  
of man's ecological mistakes.*

T M Collins.

## FRIENDSHIP

*My brother  
my sister  
I would feel your pain  
but I cannot  
I would ease your hidden sorrows  
but I know not how  
I would lighten your pathway  
if I could find the way  
I can but hear your silent cry  
and be there by your side  
and hold your hand*

Betty Culver.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT TINAROO

*Gazing up through the branches  
the warm wind in my hair,  
the smell of frying onions,  
the refreshing taste of beer.*

*This is how Sunday arvo'  
should thoughtfully be spent  
Looking at nature's glory  
wondering where last week went.*

*The joy of warm companions,  
the chatter and the laughs,  
the spirited discussions,  
and enjoyment of warm draughts.*

*The beer no longer cool now  
the sausages near burnt  
the day drawing to a close  
our departure imminent.*

*I pull myself up clumsily  
I look out across the dam  
the curlews call, the waves lap,  
Man's sacrificial lamb.*

*I shake my head, it's hopeless  
we just don't appreciate  
the beauty that surrounds us  
Until it is too late.*

*That's why Sunday arvo's  
are perfect for the job,  
we put our lives in order  
and then give thanks to God.*

*I promise standing silently  
to do the best I can,  
to carefully look after  
my small place in this land.*  
Juliette Bentley.





# Gumnut Gossip

by Megg Miller



Production on the first magazine of the year is an onerous task and there are usually moments when we wonder if it will ever be completed. The weather is stinking hot, there are hold-ups with mail and no one is in to answer the phone when we ring. Our own frailties don't help either. Stepping straight into deadline mode after ten days rest and relaxation is daunting to say the least. The 9 to 5 routine is an unpleasant shock and no one can remember back to where they were at prior to breaking off for Christmas. After overcoming the many frustrations there is a great sense of achievement when the finished artwork is handed over to the printers. 'Phew!' is the universal sigh, 'finished at last!'

Although *Grass Roots* is known for its hands-on approach to sustainable living and is much used for exchanging practical ideas and experiences, it has another dimension which may be easily overlooked but well explains its popularity. It has always been a magazine about people. For many years I thought GR was just about self-sufficiency and it wasn't until I was apprehensively viewing the flood of glossy environmental and lifestyle magazines at the beginning of the nineties that I recognised the strength of its human element. Every magazine, of course, has some special quality or characteristic that sets it apart from its competitors, and which attracts people to seek out further copies. I think it's our contributors' preparedness to be true to themselves, to be forthright about what they believe or do, even in the face of opposition, that distinguishes GR from other magazines.

There is nothing as boring or limiting as the one dimensional 'star' we encounter in the popular press. In contrast, it is the roundedness of our readers and writers – we see their flaws as well as their good points – that stimulates the feeling, 'I can relate to that'. It is this empathy that creates the goodwill so freely expressed in GR. Frequently I single out individuals whose actions embody this spirit, people whose activities have made a difference in one way or the other, or whose story or request has had an outcome that is pleasing and positive. This issue I want to draw attention to a very small and select group, and pay homage to their

contribution to this fine magazine. I refer to my staff, an oddly matched bunch who rub shoulders together remarkably affably and have the magazine's readers and values at heart.

Way back in issue 88 we featured a team photo and we're long overdue with an update. Many of you wrote in to say how pleasing it was to be able to put a face to the voice on the phone or signature on a letter. Some even said we looked younger/older, different, exactly as they envisaged, but that it was okay! Since the photo in No 88 there have been several changes. Margaret left to carve out a writing career complementary to her hubby's photography. Gail relocated with her family to southern NSW to expand their farming activities, and Celia opted for motherhood and hasn't had a moment to herself since. These folk were a hard act to follow.

Robyn, Kim, and by coincidence another Margaret, stepped ably into their shoes. Rob is our typesetter and rarely has an opportunity to leave the machine. Funnily enough I overheard her this morning saying, 'No one knows I'm here', in response to a phone enquiry. Kindhearted and a real family person, she talks at length to the computer, particularly when under pressure. I'm sure she believes in animatism.

Kim is the office youngster, lucky devil, and has us in fits with some of her escapades. She's responsible for typing up the articles, letters and grassifieds, and isn't always happy with contributors' handwriting. She also handles enquiries and maintains the database. A keen horse rider, she's loaned her mount to an acquaintance with more time. Being good with animals, she gets called to assist me with poultry emergencies. She professes to eye all birds off in terms of their drumstick, but is really a softie at heart.

Margaret is the office wonder woman. How anyone could find indexing, proofreading, book reviewing and writing endless acceptance and rejection letters to prospective contributors relaxing we just can't imagine. But with two active boys at home, a large strawberry farm with restaurant and tourist attractions plus value adding activities, and waitressing at night when there are diners, maybe GR is a quiet place to work. I have to confess

we all hang out for the delicacies which Marg often brings in from her shop.

Mary and Christine belong to the old brigade, not in age but in terms of years spent here. Mary has the unenviable job of editing the mass of material we receive. My position as co-editor is token compared to Mary's contribution, which covers grammar and syntax. It's a big job shaping a variety of writing styles (and abilities) into a coherent, consistent style. Associated tasks may include author liaison for additional info or to substantiate wild or woolly claims. Photos and illustrations may need organising. Mary is always calm and collected and personifies the quiet achiever. In terms of the latter, she is a fantastic gardener and has a special interest in garden design that reduces pest problems and disease. She is also an avid reader, and, we suspect, carries out cooking and household chores with a book in one hand. My drawing and paste-up bench is alongside her office and I always appreciate her tact and interest in my monologues on chooks and chooks again.

Christine never envisaged what she was taking on when she joined GR, but I hope she hasn't regretted that initial step. It was a change of career, both from nursing and later raising a family. With three energetic teenagers towards the end of their schooling, GR looked attractive. She has created a niche, and is like an anchor in a stormy sea. She knows where things are, when they should be done, and who should do it. And customers regularly comment on her soothing phone manner. Not that she doesn't get into an occasional paddy (usually quite justified), and how we scurry then. Chris usually insists she is dull and ordinary – I think such niceness and sense of concern place her in an extraordinary category.

It is probably no surprise to learn there is more than just a modern desktop publishing system churning out the pages of *Grass Roots*. We do work alongside and utilise current technology, but there is no substitute for personal care. Whether it is searching for obscure information, sorting out difficulties or just sending off a cheery note, the *Grass Roots* team are tops. I'm sure you'll agree with me.

\*\*\*\*\*



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